Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park and Recreation Area

MASTER PLAN

Prepared by

Southern Interior Region

Kamloops, B.C.

BC Parks

91-02228/

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:
Kokanee Glacier Park and recreation area master plan

Cover title: Master plan for Kokanee Glacier Park and recreation area.
ISBN 0-7726-1226-9

1. Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park (B.C.) 2. Parks - British Columbia - Planning. 3. Parks - British Columbia - Management. 4. Recreation areas - British Columbia - Planning. I. British Columbia. Ministry of Parks. Southern Interior Region. II. Title: Master plan for Kokanee Glacier Park and recreation area.

FC3815.K64K64 1990 333.78'3'0971165 C91-092012-5
F1089.K64K64 1990

KOKANEE GLACIER

PROVINCIAL PARK AND RECREATION AREA

MASTER PLAN

OCTOBER, 1990

Recommended: _____ Date: 90/10/23

G.C. Rathbone
District Manager
West Kootenay District

Approved: _____ Date: 90/11/05

J.N. Masselink
Assistant Deputy Minister

Table of Contents

Plan Highlights 1

Introduction 2

Purpose of the Plan
Planning Issues 3
Background Summary 4

The Role of the Park 8

Regional and Provincial Significance
Conservation Role 9
Recreation Role 10

Park Zoning 10

Natural and Cultural Resources Management 13

Land
Water 16
Vegetation 17
Fish 19
Wildlife
Cultural 21
Visual Resources 22
Recreation Features

Visitor Services 23

Introduction
Visitor Opportunities 26
Management Services 34
Marketing 35

Plan Implementation 37

Development
Resource Management
Visitor Services

Appendix A 39

Introduction 41
Natural and Cultural Resources 44
Tenures, Occupancy Rights and Jurisdictions 60
Recreation Opportunities 64
Present Access and Facilities 66
Market Analysis 71
Planning Issues 74
Bibliography 79

Appendix B 81

Appendix C 85

Maps

Location in Province and Region 5
Boundaries and Status 7
Zoning 11
Mineral Claims 15
Location and Access 43
Boundary and Status 45
Grizzly Bear Habitat and Fisheries 49
Recreation Features 51
Minesites 55
Mineral Claims (as of April 1987) 63
Facilities 69

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA

Master Plan

A. PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The master plan is based on the revised park boundaries including the recreation area.

Development and visitor use management actions are directed toward:

- ♦ providing accessible backcountry recreation opportunities in alpine-subalpine environments;
- ♦ satisfying a wide variety of seasonal visitor interests ranging from novice summer hiking to experienced winter ski touring; and
- ♦ increasing public awareness and understanding of the park, its relationship to other backcountry parks in the immediate area, and its unique or special conservation, recreation and historical features.

Major commitments for facility development and maintenance include:

- ♦ trail relocations and clearing to reduce potential conflicts with grizzly bears;
- ♦ replacement of the accommodation function in the Slocan Chief to a new cabin, but retaining the Slocan Chief for a day-use focus for visitors to meet and learn about the park; and
- ♦ construction of an access trail and on-site interpretive displays at the Molly Gibson minesite.

Major commitments for resource management include:

- ♦ development of a park vegetation management plan;
- ♦ development of a fishery management plan; and
- ♦ conservation of the Slocan Chief cabin as a heritage structure.

The plan recommends road improvements and maintenance programs for the main road accesses into the park.

Controlled use of helicopter access is considered legitimate for winter activities and to a limited extent for summer use.

There are opportunities for cooperative provision of recreation services between the private sector and BC Parks including heli-access and guiding.

The plan sets out provisions for extinguishing all existing mineral claims in the Class A portion of the park and outlines policies for mineral exploration and development in the recreation area additions.

B. INTRODUCTION

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park is one of B.C.'s oldest provincial parks. This 30,544-ha park, located in the Selkirk Mountains, is one of the most picturesque mountain parks in the Kootenays.

1. Purpose of the Plan

The master plan for Kokanee Glacier Park defines the role of the park, management objectives and visitor services. The plan also provides direction for a number of key park issues including mineral exploration and development in the recreation area additions, private sector involvement, carrying capacities, future of the Slocan Chief Cabin, overnight accommodation, road access maintenance, and grizzly bear and fisheries management. The Kokanee Glacier Park Master Plan, drawing from the Park Act and associated regulations and agency policy, provides a firm base for long-term management of the park.

The background report, with cross-referencing in the master plan, provides information to gain perspectives and understanding of the basis for master plan statements of park objectives and policies. Those who are unfamiliar with the park or who are reviewing the master plan for the first time may find it useful to read the background report, which is included as Appendix I.

The master plan was produced by a team of staff from the Provincial Parks' West Kootenay District, Southern Interior Regional and Victoria Headquarters' Planning and Conservation and Visitor Services sections. The planning process relied heavily on input from the general public, especially the park users, and consultation with public interest groups, with key representation from the Kootenay Mountaineering Club, the West Kootenay Naturalists and the member groups of the Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. (see Appendix B). There was close liaison between the Ministry of Parks, the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Branch in developing resource management strategies for the park and in revision of park boundaries.

Unless otherwise indicated, the master plan refers to the park as all lands encompassed by the revised boundaries, including the recreation area additions.

2. Planning Issues

a. Mineral Exploration Interests

The master plan provides policy directions for mineral exploration and development in the recreation area additions.

b. Outdoor Recreation Use Potential

The master plan identifies compatible recreation opportunities for the park as well as suitable locations and acceptable levels of use.

c. Commercial Recreation Services

The master plan establishes the appropriate types and scale of commercial recreation services acceptable in Kokanee Glacier Park.

d. Overnight Accommodation/Shelters

The master plan establishes direction for the provision of permanent overnight accommodation facilities in the park.

e. Slocan Chief Cabin

The master plan determines a suitable management program for this historic structure.

f. Grizzly Bear Management

The master plan establishes management guidelines to protect grizzly bear habitat in the park and minimize park visitor conflicts with bears.

g. Fisheries Management

The master plan provides direction for enhancing backcountry fishing opportunities.

h. Access Roads

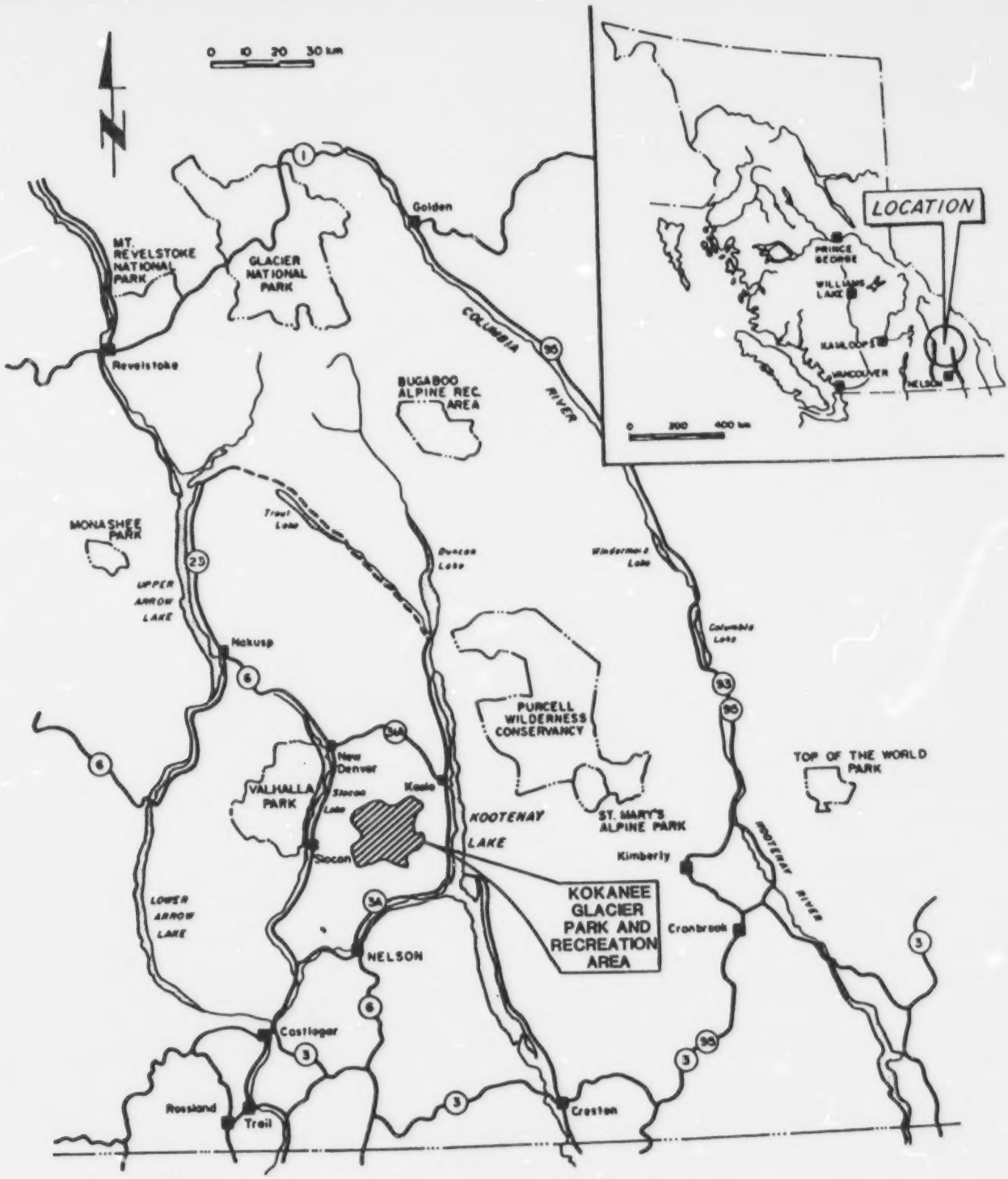
The master plan identifies priorities for maintenance of road accesses.

3. Background Summary

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, set aside in 1922, is one of the oldest parks in the provincial system. It has a long history of recreational use and is perhaps the best known alpine park in the Kootenay area of British Columbia. Its boundaries encompass 30,554 hectares of some of the most scenic mountain country to be found in the Selkirk Mountains of southern British Columbia, comprising a picturesque mosaic of high peaks, snowfields, cirques and colourful lake basins.

The park straddles the crest of mountain ridges between Slocan Lake and Kootenay Lake. Located 30 kilometres to the northeast, the peaks of Kokanee Glacier are visible from the City of Nelson and stand out as dominant skyline features from many points on Kootenay Lake.

The park represents sub-alpine and alpine landscapes and biological conditions of the Selkirk Ranges of the Southern Columbia Mountains. The many remains of small, turn of the century mining operations in the park add historical and human



KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA

LOCATION IN PROVINCE AND REGION

interest to the landscape. As one of the few remaining structures of the pre-1900's mining era, the Slocan Chief cabin has heritage value.

Kokanee Glacier Park holds special appeal for backcountry recreation. The park's recreation and scenic features in combination with established trails, cabins and campsites, provide attractive situations for summer day-use and backpacking. The traditionally used areas of the park are suited to the capabilities and aspirations of families and inexperienced backcountry recreationists. There are also remote pristine areas of the park offering challenge and attraction for experienced wilderness enthusiasts.

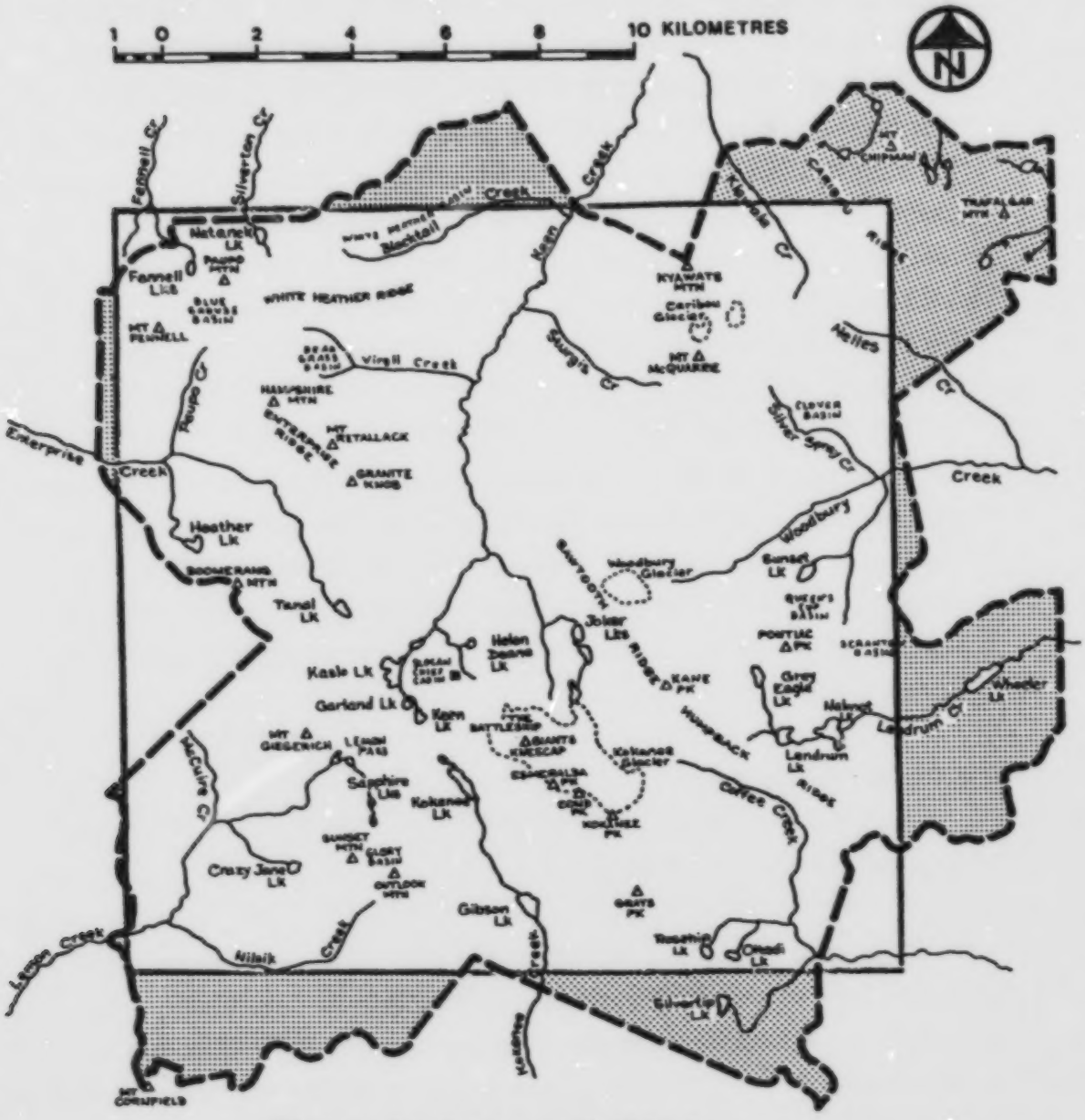
With the use of helicopter access and the Slocan Chief cabin for winter accommodation, the park has become a popular winter destination for ski touring. There is potential to expand winter opportunities into other areas of the park.

Hiking is by far the most popular activity in the park during the summer season followed by backpacking, photography, nature study, fishing and climbing. Ski-touring on the most accessible slopes along with photography are the main winter activities.

Over 40% of park visitors are from the West Kootenays, 25% from other areas of the province, 15% from other Canadian provinces, 15% from the United States, and about 5% from other origins. Tourist use primarily occurs in the Kokanee Creek drainage and the Slocan Chief area. The park is expected to continue to be popular, particularly for the regional population and as tourism generally expands in British Columbia, it is anticipated that the park will attract a greater proportion of non-local visitors.

In the spring of 1987, the B.C. Government revised park boundaries to resolve long standing mineral claim issues in the park. The decisions were based on the precedent set by the Supreme Court of Canada ruling which confirmed the

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA



Boundaries and Status

OLD BOUNDARY

NEW BOUNDARY

CLASS A PARK STATUS (PREVIOUS CLASS B) - 23,279 ha

RECREATION AREA STATUS (PROPOSED FOR EVENTUAL CLASS A STATUS) - 7,275 ha

legitimacy of existing mineral claim tenures in Wells Gray Park. The decisions also followed the 1986 recommendations of the Wilderness Advisory Committee whose membership, representing a variety of interests, was appointed by Government to examine issues relating to wilderness designation in the 16 areas, including Kokanee Glacier Park. The boundaries of Kokanee Glacier Park were amended by Order-In-Council to provide a more rational relationship to topographic and recreation features. Peripheral areas of low recreation value in Timber Creek, Keen Creek and Coffee Creek were deleted and major areas of significant recreation potential (Wheeler Lake, Caribou Ridge) were added as recreation areas.

On March 21st, 1989, the Class B portion of the park was upgraded to Class A park status. In conjunction with the change in status no further mineral exploration will be permitted in the park. The Government has also stated its intention to allow for time limited mineral exploration of the recreation area additions to provide the basis for considering park status for these areas (see Appendix C).

C. THE ROLE OF THE PARK

1. Regional and Provincial Significance

Wilderness and backcountry recreation form an important emphasis of the provincial park system and in this context intensively used backcountry parks contribute a significant role in promoting the natural beauty and tourism attractions of British Columbia. In each region of the Province there are park areas which offer easy access and relatively safe backcountry opportunities for inexperienced hikers and backpackers. Kokanee Glacier plays a similar role in the West Kootenays to that of the Diamond Head area of Garibaldi Park and the Three Brothers area of Manning Park on the South Coast, and Cathedral Park in the Okanagan.

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park is the most intensively developed and actively managed backcountry park area in the West Kootenays. It is the best suited of the West Kootenay mountain parks to serve as an introduction to the backcountry, where park management and development levels reflect the needs of inexperienced visitors. While Valhalla Provincial Park offers opportunities for low elevation backcountry use aligned to the lakeshore of Slocan Lake, the alpine ridges and basins of the Valhalla Mountains are more rugged than those of Kokanee Glacier, posing limitations for inexperienced backcountry users. The Purcell Wilderness Conservancy covers a large tract of the Purcell Mountains on the east side of Kootenay Lake, but beyond the Earl Grey trail and facilities provided by traditional guide-outfitters, the Conservancy is intended to offer only primitive and challenging wilderness recreation experiences. The Nancy Greene Recreation Area also contains extensive mountain ridges but recreational use is dominated by commercial downhill and cross-country skiing. The Fry Creek Canyon Recreation Area offers hiking opportunities but does not extend much beyond 8 kilometres and is primarily used for day hikes.

2. Conservation Role

There are four primary conservation roles in this park:

a. To present within the context of the Representative Landscape Objectives of the provincial park system, the natural features of the Southern Selkirk Mountains, in particular the sub-alpine Engelmann spruce-alpine fir and alpine biogeoclimatic zones.

b. To preserve examples of Grizzly Bear and Mountain Goat populations of the southern Selkirk Mountains.

c. To maintain the character and qualities of the environment and features which form the aesthetic and recreational appeal of the park.

d. To preserve and present representative examples of the early alpine mining history of the West Kootenays.

3. Recreation Role

Recreation goals are:

a. To focus the public's introduction to backcountry recreation onto the Gibson Lake, Kokanee-Kaslo Lakes and Slocan Chief areas. Easy access and relative safety and comfort will be ensured through facilities and services which relate to the needs of families, beginners and other visitors who have limited experience or ability in backcountry recreation.

b. To take advantage of the potential of other areas of the park in offering a diversity of backcountry experiences ranging from those associated with easy access, high visitation to those of remote wilderness environments.

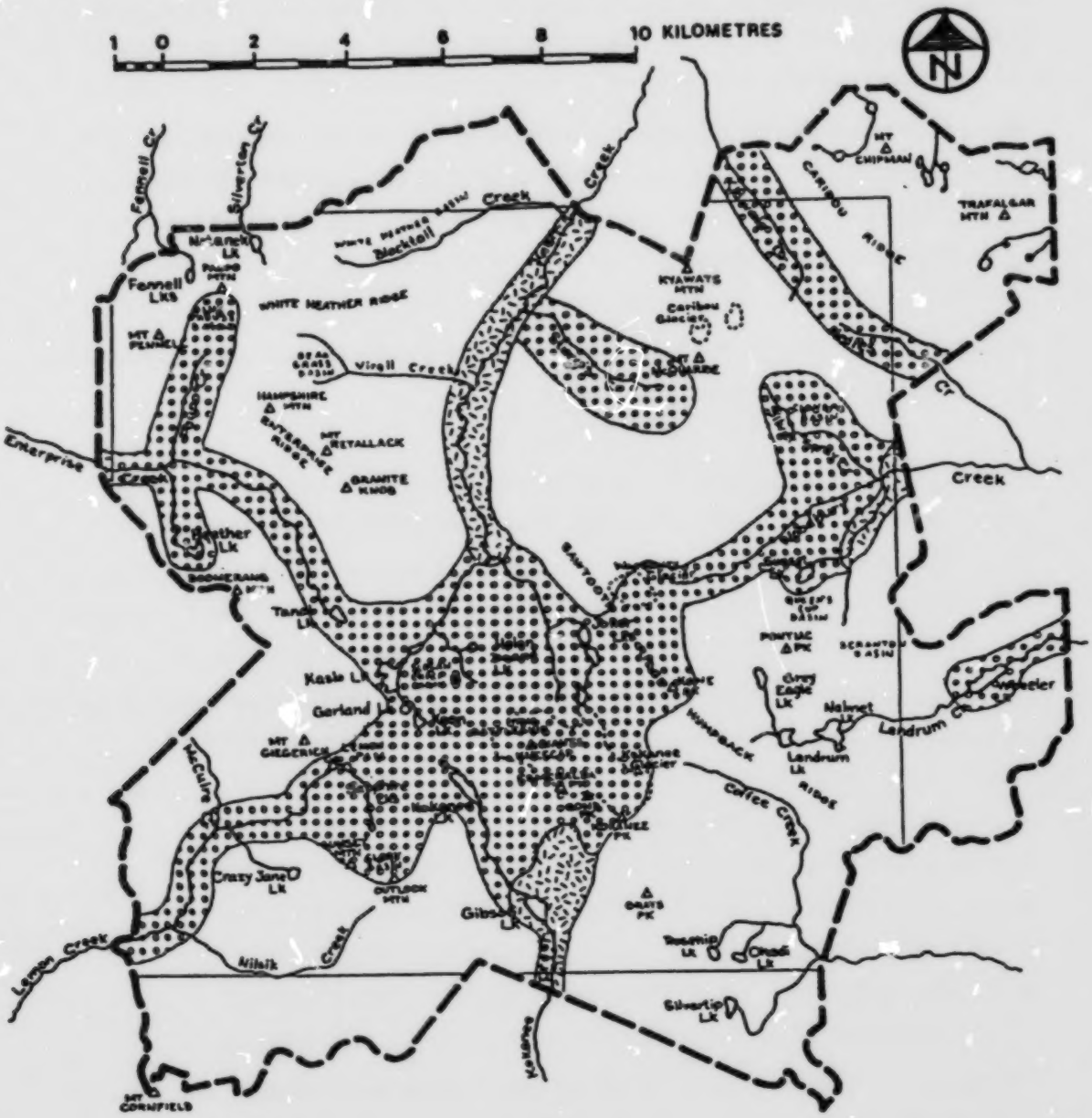
c. To allow as wide a variety of activities as are consistent with backcountry recreation while minimizing environmental impacts and conflicts between user types. On this basis, appropriate recreational activities include: hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, camping, fishing, photography, natural and human history study, and ski touring. Helicopter access administered through Park Use Permit will be considered legitimate particularly for winter activities and to a limited extent for summer use.

d. To ensure that the nature and scale of park development and use are maintained at levels which are compatible with the backcountry experience.

D. PARK ZONING

Kokanee Glacier Park is primarily a backcountry area. Several roads lead to staging areas around the periphery of the park. From here, visitors hike to areas of

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA



Zoning

- INTENSIVE USE ZONE
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ZONE
- WILDERNESS RECREATION ZONE
- RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY

relatively high use and close management attention. Beyond these well travelled areas, experienced visitors are free to explore the wilderness of the more rugged parts of the park.

Based upon the existing and projected patterns of access and recreation use, zoning is intended to define how the park will be developed and managed. By identifying natural and recreational values, the zone plan will be used in assessing the sensitivity of park areas to mining impacts.

As defined under the guidelines and criteria of the Provincial park zoning system, the park is separated into the following zones:

Intensive Recreation Zone — Provides for readily accessible day-use recreation opportunities and overnight parking and base facilities for extended backcountry trips. This zone includes auto-destination areas and staging facilities at the Gibson Lake, Woodbury Creek, Enterprise Creek, Sturgis Creek and Keen Creek trailheads.

Natural Environment Zone — Encompasses the focal backcountry use areas of the park where visitors and management services will be concentrated:

- Slocan Chief - Kaslo - Kokanee Lake
- Enterprise Creek - Tanal Lake
- Joker Lakes
- Woodbury - Silver Spray - Sunset
- Wheeler Lake

The heavier backcountry use levels of this zone may at times preclude any sense of wilderness isolation.

Wilderness Recreation Zone — Covers the major portions of the park where development and management strategies will be directed toward maintaining relatively low levels of use compatible with the concept of wilderness.

E. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Resource management objectives and actions will be directed toward protection of natural features and processes of the park to maintain a quality environment and to enhance public enjoyment and recreation. Park zones will largely define the levels and criteria for resource management. Mineral exploration and development activities will be managed to protect park and ecological values in the recreation area additions. Park management will be closely coordinated with resource management interests outside the park, particularly in the main drainages leading into the park.

1. Land

a. Boundaries and Status (see pages 40-43 & 74, Background Report)

Objectives:

i. To cancel all mineral claims in the Class A Park area.

ii. To allow for mineral potential evaluation of recreation area lands for future government consideration for park status.

Actions:

i. No further mineral exploration or development work will be permitted on the existing claims in the Class A Park.

ii. Undertake acquisition of all mineral claim rights in the Class A status area in accordance with Ministry policies and procedures.
Permit mineral exploration in the recreation area in accordance with Section 19 of the Mineral Tenure Act. Mineral exploration will be permitted for a minimum 10-year period. If no viable mineral occurrences have been discovered within the 10-year period, the area in part or in whole may be recommended for Class A Park designation.

b. Mineral Resources (see pages 60-63 & 74, Background Report and Appendix C)

Objectives:

i. To recognize the rights of claim holders in recreation area additions.

ii. To ensure that mineral exploration and development in the recreation area additions are undertaken with full consideration of the natural values and environmental sensitivity of the area, and the potential levels of impact.

Actions:

i. The recreation area additions are open to mineral claim staking and exploration. Under procedures administered by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources through the Mineral Tenure Act a minimum 10-year period is allowed for claim staking and evaluation. Special terms and conditions governing each exploration application will be mutually developed by Parks and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources staff and will be incorporated in permits for exploration to ensure that surface disturbances are kept to a minimum and site reclamation work is carried out. If, during the ten year period, a viable mineral deposit is discovered which results in an application to open a mine, secure tenure will be extended for the length of time necessary to complete the mining operation, provided the proposal satisfies government's mine review and approval process. On completion of the mining operation the recreational values would be reassessed and recommendations prepared on the reclassification of the recreation areas to Class A Park status.

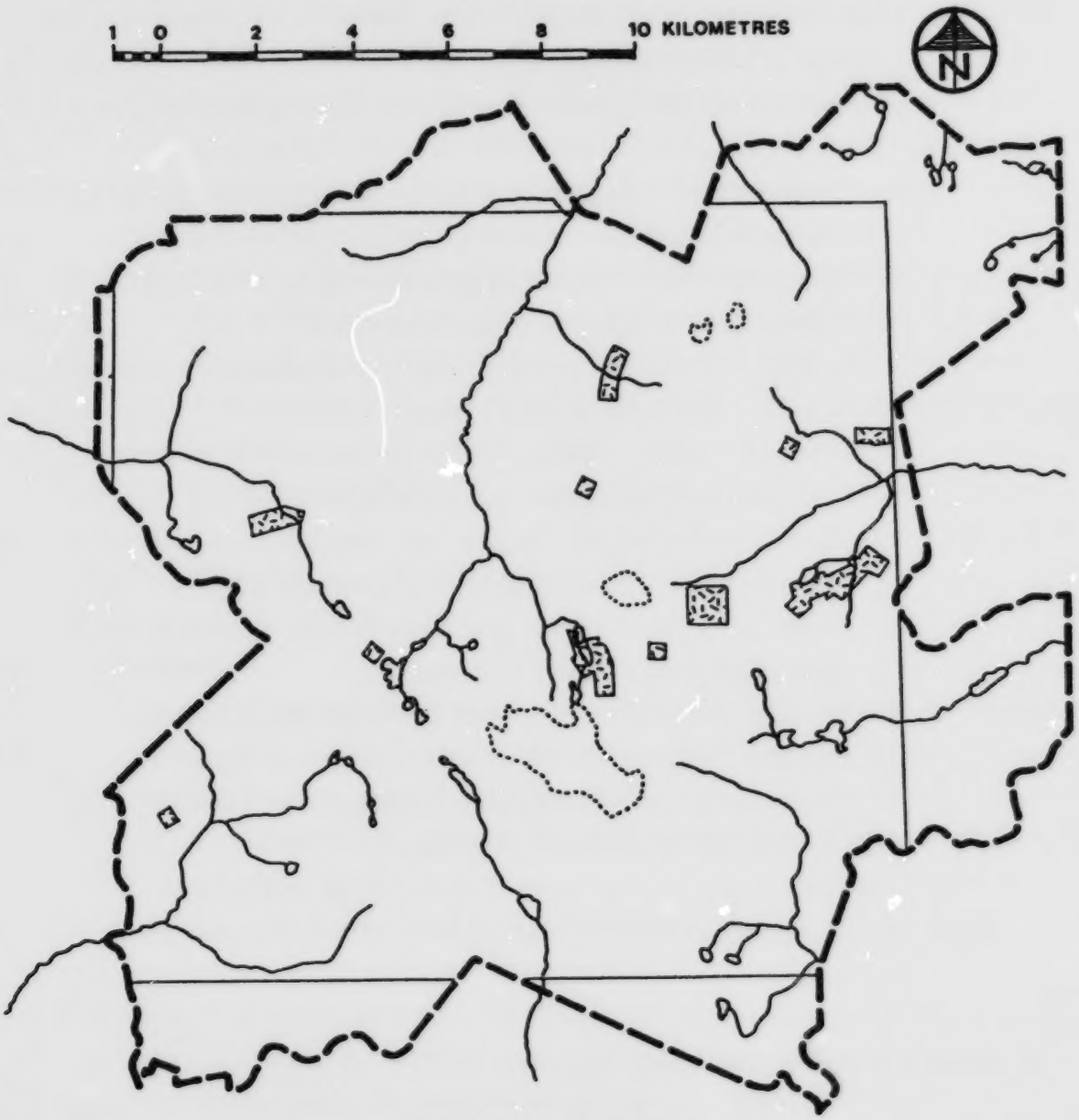
ii. Road access across the recreation area lands to mineral claims located within the recreation area may be authorized by a resource use permit which would define the location of the road, construction standards and other terms and conditions regarding the building, maintaining and use of the road.

c. **Access Roads** (see pages 65-67, Background Report)

Objective:

To ensure that all main park access roads are maintained in good two-wheel drive standard.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA



Mineral Claims

MINERAL CLAIM (NON-CONFORMING STATUS IN CLASS A PORTION OF PARK)

RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY

Actions:

i. Undertake to develop agreements with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways and the Ministry of Forests and Lands for maintenance of the park access roads. Priorities for road maintenance are identified as follows:

- Kokanee Creek — upgrade road surface and grades to allow for low suspension vehicles (managed by Highways to park boundary);
- Woodbury Creek — upgrade to good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Forest Service to park boundaries);
- Keen Creek — maintain in good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Ministry of Highways to park boundaries);
- Enterprise Creek — maintain in good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Forest Service to park boundaries);
- Wheeler Lake — maintain in good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Forest Service to Whecler Lake trailhead);
- Lemon Creek — maintain in good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Forest Service to trailhead).
- Wheeler Lake — maintain in good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Forest Service to Wheeler Lake trailhead);
- Lemon Creek — maintain in good two-wheel drive standard (managed by Forest Service to trailhead).

ii. Undertake to gazette Keen Creek Road inside the park to place management responsibility with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

2. **Water** (see page 44, Background Report)

Objective:

To maintain the high natural quality of waters within the park for aesthetic, ecological and health considerations.

Actions:

i. Establish appropriate sanitary facilities at all designated use sites to minimize risks of contaminating water sources.

ii. Monitor lake and stream courses in the park for coliform and water borne diseases. The public will be warned of any hazards. If possible the source(s) of contamination will be reduced or eliminated.

iii. Coordinate with the Ministry of Forests and Lands and other agencies to ensure protection of the watershed and fishery values in drainages leading out of the park. The park provides headwater protection for major creek drainages leading to Kootenay Lake and the Slocan Valley.

iv. Manage mineral exploration and development operations in the recreation area additions to avoid impairment of surface or ground water quality. Resource Use Permits will apply very stringent conditions for protection of water quality. Drainage considerations will be a major factor in location and construction specifications for all road access developments.

v. Maintain the Gibson Lake dam to sustain 1987 water levels.

3. **Vegetation** (see pages 44-46, Background Report)

Objectives:

To preserve the natural occurring diversity of plant associations within the park to ensure the maintenance of a quality environment and to enhance public enjoyment and recreation. More specifically:

i. To maintain plant communities and species that contribute to the visual and recreation attractions of the park.

ii. To maintain, where compatible with other park objectives, the natural processes that occur in unmanaged forests.

iii. To maintain the diversity of wildlife habitats in the park.

iv. To preserve special sensitive and rare native plant communities and species.

v. To discourage the establishment of non-native plant species.

vi. To encourage non-destructive scientific studies to improve the knowledge of plant associations in the park.

Actions:

i. Develop a long term vegetation management strategy for the park. Key elements in this strategy include:

- ♦ forest resource inventory including the occurrence of rare plant species and sensitive plant communities;

- ♦ fire management research particularly directed toward determining what role naturally caused fires would have in the ecological communities of the park;
- ♦ wildlife habitat inventory;
- ♦ disease/insect infestations;
- ♦ potential use of fire as a management tool to maintain vegetation diversity.

ii. Develop a fire suppression plan for the park including:

- ♦ public evacuation measures;
- ♦ priority control areas;
- ♦ fire control methods;
- ♦ fire rehabilitation strategies.

iii. Manage insect and disease infestations as a normal process in the park. Some action may be warranted to reduce fire hazard and eliminate blowdown threat to trails or facilities, or if there is potential damage to crucial wildlife habitats, rare plant communities and outside commercial forest interests. Sanitary or other preventative measures will be applied without benefit of road or mechanized ground access in the natural environment and wilderness zones unless warranted by extraordinary circumstances.

iv. Revegetate any disturbed areas with grass and shrub species, utilizing as close as possible seed mixes, cuttings and planting stocks representing plant species antigens to the area.

v. Retain all snags and trees except those presenting public hazard around parking areas, designated camping areas, trails and cabin sites in accordance with Ministry Policy. The removal of park snags for public firewood will be phased out.

vi. Protect sensitive vegetation communities from adverse impacts of recreational uses including grazing of recreation stock.

vii. Maintain close involvement with the Ministry of Forests in the review of forest development plans in the various drainages leading into the park to protect aesthetics and recreation values.

4. **Fish** (see page 48, Background Report)

Objective:

To maintain a variety of fishing experiences relating to public aspirations and the fishery capabilities of the park's lakes and streams.

Actions:

i. Review and update the 1982 lake stocking study.

ii. Develop a fisheries management plan in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Branch based on the following use concepts:

- heavy use — walk-in Gibson, Kokanee, Kaslo, Garland, Helen Deane, Sunset, Wheeler, Tanal and Joker Lakes;
- fly-in — Nalmet, Grey Eagle, Lendrum Lakes;
- wilderness hike-in — Crazy Jane, Heather Lake;
- assess other unknown opportunities — Caribou Ridge, Oltedi, Silvertip, Rosehip, Fennell, Natanek, Kyawats.

iii. Impose no special tackle or size limit restrictions in the park, except those necessary to manage populations to meet fishery objectives.

iv. Maintain records of fishing use, carry out periodic creel census and monitor the impacts of angling pressure and the success of management activities.

5. **Wildlife** (see pages 47-49, Background Report)

Objectives:

i. To maintain the natural diversity of species presently found within the park and to allow the natural establishment of other native or historical species.

ii. To protect critical habitats and enhance declining habitats where there is compatibility with other park resource management and recreation use objectives.

iii. To provide for public viewing and non-consumptive appreciation of wildlife.

iv. To encourage scientific wildlife studies and inventories, and research programs in the park, especially those with direct management implications.

Actions:

i. Maintain management programs which give high priority to the conservation of the park grizzly and mountain goat populations.

ii. Manage wildlife in the park in close cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Branch.

iii. Undertake wildlife inventories on an ongoing basis in the park particularly relating to distribution of grizzly bear and mountain goat.

iv. Permit the transplant of park species to other areas if there are no negative effects on park populations. Population levels will depend on natural recruitment for all wildlife species. Natural establishment of new species will be closely monitored through sighting records.

v. Protect wildlife habitats by ensuring that park development, recreation use and mineral exploration and extraction activities in the recreation area additions are managed to minimize impacts to critical habitats.

vi. Maintain ongoing program to reduce potential confrontation between grizzly bears and park visitors. This program will involve a number of strategies:

- managing grizzly bears on an integrated basis with other agencies on adjacent lands;
- monitoring of the bear population and movements;
- informing the public of bear habits and habitats, and the recommended methods for camping and travelling in the park to avoid problems with bears. Information programs will utilize park brochures, information boards and signs;
- setting high standards for the control of garbage and fish offal disposal;
- establishing bear proof food caches for all designated backcountry campsites;
- relocation of existing trails where possible away from grizzly feeding areas, and provision of long viewing corridors along trails that cross grizzly habitat;
- temporary closures to public use of areas considered hazardous due to the presence of bears;
- no development in the Coffee Creek drainage and in Lendrum Creek headwaters above Wheeler Lake;
- removal of persistent problem bears by live-trapping and transfer, or, if necessary, by shooting, in the overriding interest of public safety.

vii. The park will be closed to hunting. There has essentially been no hunting use made of the park in recent years and the hunting opportunities are considered marginal.

6. **Cultural** (see pages 52-55, Background Report)

Objective:

To preserve cultural resource values in the park which relate to turn of the Century mining and early use of the Kokanee Glacier area for mountaineering and recreational use.

Actions:

i. Designate the Slocan Chief Cabin as a heritage structure. As a heritage structure, the cabin will be managed to preserve its structural integrity and present appearance. The cabin will be a focus of interpretation relating to the early mining period and the subsequent evolution of recreation use.

ii. Manage Silver Spray Cabin as an accommodation facility rather than as a heritage feature, in consideration of its low heritage significance. Replacement of this cabin will be deferred to such time as its condition has deteriorated to an unsafe state.

iii. Allow all other structures that are still standing or partially standing and any minesites to age naturally, and, where appropriate, provide information on their history. Ensure preservation of historical integrity as far as possible in taking any measures necessary to stabilize mining sites and buildings in the interests of public safety. Close abandoned mine shafts if they pose a hazard to park visitors.

iv. Develop the Molly Gibson minesite for interpretation by constructing a trail to the Molly Gibson site from the Gibson Lake-Kokanee Lake trail and developing information boards and descriptive plaques, displays and/or brochures to describe the history of the mine's development and operation.

7. **Visual Resources** (see pages 50-52, Background Report)

Objective:

To ensure that protection of aesthetic values forms a key element of resource management responsibilities both within and adjacent to the park and along the access routes into the park.

Actions:

i. Assist the Forest Service in setting visual quality management objectives to retain the forested landscapes of the main Kokanee drainage. The Kokanee Creek corridor connecting Kokanee Creek and Kokanee Glacier Provincial Parks was designated in 1973 as an Integrated Use Planning Area by the Ministry of Forests to reflect its aesthetic and recreational values. Maintain strong involvement with the Ministry of Forests and Lands in development of an overall forest harvesting plan for the Kokanee Creek drainage.

ii. Assist the Forest Service in setting visual quality management objectives to minimize visual impacts of logging where scenic values are considered important in the Keen Creek, Woodbury and Enterprise Creek Valleys outside park boundaries.

iii. Situate and design all park facilities to be in harmony with the visual setting.

iv. Ensure that visual resources are recognized and protected in mineral resource management in the recreation area additions.

8. **Recreation Features** (see pages 48-51, Background Report)

Objective:

To ensure that resource management activities, visitor use and park facilities do not impair recreation features in the park through over-development or over-use.

Actions:

i. Control mineral exploration and developments to minimize impacts to scenic and recreation features in recreation area additions. Conditions will be applied according to requirements relating to circumstances of location, scale of activity and potential impacts.

ii. Situate and design all park facilities so as not to impair recreation features.

iii. Manage visitor use distribution and levels to minimize impact to recreational features.

F. VISITOR SERVICES (see pages 63-70, Background Report)

1. Introduction

a. General Concept

The role of Visitor Services within Kokanee Glacier Park is to provide a range of backcountry recreation opportunities suitable for first-time or inexperienced users. Thus, a high level of accessibility, information and direction, facility support and security will be available. The roads up each major drainage put most areas of the park within summer day hiking range and encourage short backpacking trips in scenic alpine settings. Public shelters, the extensive trail system and prescribed air access will serve both to promote use in attractive yet durable areas and to distribute visitors around the park. Recreational guiding and other commercial services can be incorporated as appropriate to expand the range of opportunities provided in the park, as long as they do not replace or displace existing significant opportunities. Environmentally sensitive areas and more rugged sections of the park will receive no new development and will therefore afford limited opportunities for wilderness recreation.

b. Access Strategy

Road access is critical to realization of the park's major role as a readily accessible, backcountry recreation activity area. By reaching different areas of the park, each road contributes both to user distribution and to the variety of recreational opportunities available. Because all accesses are under other agencies' jurisdictions, close interagency cooperation and long-term road maintenance funding commitments are essential to ensure optimum public use of the park. Significantly higher summer use levels will only be achieved if key road accesses are upgraded.

Air access is the basis of winter use in the park and will continue to be encouraged for this purpose. Helicopter uses will not be authorized where they conflict with surface accessed activities or adversely impact sensitive natural resources.

c. Information Strategy

Information about Kokanee Glacier will be developed in three broad categories:

1) awareness and promotion;
2) access and orientation;
3) natural and cultural heritage interpretation.

Awareness and Promotion

Most visitors to this park will be drawn from the West Kootenays, southern Alberta, northern Idaho and Washington. The park would appeal to more distant urban markets, however, as part of a package of backcountry experiences for longer vacations in the southeastern sector of the Province. The approaches which will be used to contact these markets will include:

- brochures — existing brochure will be revised to emphasize the available recreational experiences and the appropriate user-types. The brochure will be translated into Japanese;
- mass media articles and programs — writers, photographers and artists will be encouraged and assisted in preparing articles or materials;
- travelling displays — emphasis will be made on marketing this park at Travel Trade Shows in the southern Alberta and northern Washington areas;
- tourist information tabloids — information/photographs will be provided to Chambers of Commerce in the West Kootenay area and to all Travel Associations in the marketing triangle;
- cooperative promotions with the private sector — encourage local businesses to sell t-shirts, mugs and other souvenir items featuring a Kokanee Glacier Park logo;

- staff lectures — emphasis will be placed on local area, schools and the International College.

For those unable to visit the park, vivid images and descriptions conveyed by these same approaches will provide vicarious experiences to reinforce the wisdom of creating and managing the area.

Access and Orientation

While enroute to the park, travellers will be assured of accurate information to facilitate their arrival and to emphasize the backcountry nature of the park. On-site information will orient them to the park, its facilities and the recreational opportunities available. Emphasis will be placed upon safe recreation, minimal environmental impact, bear safety awareness and proper camping techniques. The approaches to be used will include:

- information shelters and maps at trailheads;
- directional signing along trails;
- printed materials;
- signs inside shelters at Gibson Lake and Slocan Chief areas;
- signs at selected minesites — Park Ranger services;
- brochures and displays at key tourist information centres;
- up-to-date highway signage;
- signs or displays on secondary access roads from Highway 3A, 6 and 31A;
- information displays at other parks;
- displays, video programs, staff services and visitor programs at Kokanee Creek Visitor Centre;
- staff at other parks;
- concessionaire staff.

Interpretation

The interpretation of natural and cultural features will be accomplished through the balanced utilization of both personal services and self-explanatory media. The latter approach will dominate and will include publications,

trailside signs, and displays inside public shelters. Facility development will be restricted to the intensive use and natural environment zones. Personal interpretive services will be provided on a limited basis and will focus on the Gibson Lake and Slocan Chief areas. Messages will emphasize themes that are most unique to Kokanee Glacier Park and will emphasize its role in both conservation and recreation. Major themes will focus on:

i. Natural Heritage:
   - bedrock geology of Slocan Ranges;
   - alpine and subalpine ecology;
   - glaciation;
   - grizzly bear ecology and management.

ii. Cultural Heritage
   - mineral exploration and mining history;
   - history of recreation in the area.

iii. Park Exploration
   - hiking and backpacking skills;
   - outdoor safety including bear safety;
   - mountaineering and glacier travel;
   - low impact camping;
   - wilderness ethics;
   - winter recreation skills.

2. Visitor Opportunities

a. Backcountry Day-use

Objective:

To provide day-use opportunities from various entry points in the park, focusing on hiking, nature and cultural resource appreciation, fishing access and picnicking.

Actions:

i. Encourage day visits in the Gibson Lake to Kokanee Lake, Keen Creek to Joker Lakes, Keen Creek to Slocan Chief, Woodbury Creek to Silver Spray, Sunset Lake, Wheeler Lake and Enterprise to Tanal Lake areas.

ii. Direct first-time park visitors, tourists, families with young children, school groups etc. to use the Gibson Lake area. Facilities will be designed for inexperienced wilderness visitors and will provide higher levels of safety, convenience and comfort than normally found in backcountry settings. Appropriate types of facilities include picnic shelter(s), type 1 tables, self guiding interpretive trails leading around Gibson Lake to Kokanee Lake and to the Molly Gibson minesite.

iii. Give highest priority for trail maintenance to day hiking trails. All day hiking trails will be maintained either in good wide tread, even surfaced or single width, and good surfaced condition.

b. Backcountry Destination

Objectives:

i. To offer a variety of backcountry destinations oriented to back-packing, natural and cultural resource appreciation and fishing.

ii. To obtain more accurate use statistics and satisfaction monitoring in order to set carrying capacities and determine use trends.

Actions:

i. Develop and manage main trailheads to Gibson Lake, Wheeler Lake, Woodbury Creek, Keen Creek, Enterprise Creek and Lemon Creek for overnight excursions into the park. Until more accurate use and carrying capacity data is available, the approximate capacity for each trailhead will be set according to day-use requirements and the social carrying capacities of these backcountry destinations. Monitoring of these requirements will be ongoing throughout the life of this plan.

Gibson Lake	— parking	— 40 vehicles
	camping	— 10 sites
Wheeler Lake	— parking	— 5 vehicles
	camping	— 2 sites
Woodbury Creek	— parking	— 15 vehicles
	camping	— 5 sites

Keen Creek	— parking	— 15 vehicles
Enterprise Creek	— parking	— 10 vehicles
	camping	— 5 sites
Lemon Creek	— parking	— 10 vehicles
	camping	— 5 sites
Sturgis Creek	— parking	— 5 vehicles
	camping	— 2 sites
Nelles Creek	— parking	— 5 vehicles
	camping	— 2 sites
Klawala Creek	— parking	— 5 vehicles
	camping	— 2 sites

ii. Assume responsibility for development and maintenance of all trailhead facilities. Sites outside the park — Klawala, Nelles, Lemon, Lendrum — will be managed under authority of Section 6 of the Park Act.

iii. Direct hiking and backpacking use to established trails and designated routes to minimize impacts to sensitive park environments. Depending on annual maintenance funding capabilities, backcountry trails will be maintained to the following standards:

<u>Well Maintained — Good Condition</u>

- Kokanee Lake to Kaslo Lake to Slocan Chief
- Keen Creek to Helen Deane Lake
- Silver Spray
- Sunset Lake
- Wheeler Lake
- Woodbury Creek
- Enterprise Creek
- Lemon Creek

<u>Periodically Maintained — Reasonable Condition</u>

- Sturgis Creek
- Blue Grouse Basin

<u>Limited Maintenance — Rough Trails</u>

- Heather Lake
- Nelles Creek
- Klawala Creek

iv. Restrict all overnight use in the Natural Environment zones to designated campsites.

v. Until more accurate use and carrying capacity data is available, the approximate capacity for each designated campground will be set according to overnight use requirements and the social carrying capacities of these areas. Monitoring of these requirements will be ongoing throughout the life of this plan.

- Helen Deane-Slocan Chief — 30 sites
- Kokanee Lake, north end — 10 sites
- Kaslo-Garland Lakes area — 20 sites
- Tanal Lake — 5 sites
- Sapphire Lakes — 5 sites
- Silver Spray — 15 sites
- Sunset Lake — 5 sites
- Joker Lakes — 15 sites
- Blue (Paupau) Basin — 10 sites
- Nelles Creek — 10 sites
- Wolf Cascade — 10 sites
- Sturgis Creek — 5 sites

vi. Ensure the maintenance of existing public cabins with established carrying capacities.

- Construct a new facility (20-person capacity) in the Slocan Chief area and discontinue overnight use of the Slocan Chief Cabin. The Slocan Chief Cabin will be used as a warming shelter, interpretation centre and as a general meeting and day-use activity focus for visitors.
- Silver Spray Cabin — 4-person capacity — will require immediate replacement.
- Woodbury Hut — 8-person capacity.

vii. Control all helicopter use for summer access through Park Use Permit authority. As a general principle, helicopter use will be directed by scheduling, designated flight paths and landing sites to minimize disruptions to other park users.

viii. Encourage all backcountry users to use stoves, low impact camping equipment and techniques. Permit campfires only in designated sites.

ix. Install trail counters, survey and monitoring systems to provide more accurate use and satisfaction data for all trailheads and designated campgrounds in the park.

c. Natural and Cultural Resource Appreciation

Objective:

In conjunction with day and destination use, to present opportunities to view and learn about the natural and cultural features of the park.

Actions:

i. Provide interpretive information about the natural environment of the park and its historical uses at key staging areas and other focal points in the park.

ii. Develop opportunities for viewing of mountain goats and possibly grizzly bears.

iii. Maintain the Gibson Lake trail as a safe, self-guiding facility suitable for all ages.

iv. Develop the Kokanee Lake trail and a constructed trail to the Molly Gibson Mine area to allow safe access into some adits and to utilize on-site mining equipment and a range of media as a package to interpret the mining history of the area.

v. Develop interpretive displays at the Slocan Chief cabin.

vi. In cooperation with the Ministry of Forests and Lands and the Ministry of Transportation and Highways, establish viewpoints and pulloffs along the Kokanee Creek road, to facilitate a unique opportunity to experience the range of vegetation, climatic and cultural features that extend from Kootenay Lake to the subalpine meadows.

vii. Ensure that Park Rangers are able to provide resource interpretation services.

viii. Improve minesites identified for public access to a standard considered safe by the District Manager prior to encouraging visitation.

d. Mountaineering, Ridge Walking, Wilderness Travel

Objective:

To provide opportunities for glacial travel, ice and snow climbing, rock climbing, general mountaineering, ridge scrambling and rugged wilderness travel.

Actions:

i. Encourage visitors to use low impact camping equipment and techniques.

ii. Ensure visitors are familiar with techniques of safe travel and camping in grizzly country.

iii. Direct mountaineers to the Kokanee Glacier, Woodbury Glacier, Caribou Ridge and Mt. McQuarrie areas. Rescue operations will be coordinated through the local P.E.P. and R.C.M.P. organizations.

iv. Direct wilderness enthusiasts to a number of interesting routes:

- Keyhole to Slocan Chief
- Keyhole to Coffee Pass to Kane Peak to Woodbury
- Glory Basin into Crazy Jane Lake
- Lemon Creek to Crazy Jane Lake
- White Heather Ridge
- Enterprise Ridge
- Granite Knob to Mt. Retallack
- Lemon Pass to Boomerang Mountain
- Kokanee Glacier Peaks traverse to Grays Peak
- Pontiac Peak to Grey Eagle Lake
- Sturgis Creek to Silver Spray
- Silver Spray to Wolf Cascade
- Silver Spray to Caribou Pass
- Nelles Creek to Caribou Pass to Klawala Creek

v. Permit helicopter access for mountaineering, and access to wilderness base camps with particular focus on the Caribou Ridge area. Traditional wilderness users are very sensitive to helicopter use. BC Parks manages all helicopter use through Park Use Permit to minimize conflicts.

e. Winter Recreation

Objective:

To encourage nordic skiing in Kokanee Glacier Park through helicopter access and provision of shelters.

Actions:

i. Establish an efficient winter cabin in the vicinity of the Slocan Chief area to replace the existing accommodation in the Slocan Chief Cabin. The Slocan Chief will function as a day-use meeting area, warming shelter and interpretive use centre.

ii. Encourage winter use of the Silver Spray and Woodbury huts.

iii. Establish shelters in other areas of the park as funding priorities allow or by using cooperating associations/private sector resources. Griffin Creek-Kaslo Lake, Coffee Pass and the Caribou Ridge offer potential for new cabins either for destination use or for hut to hut traverses.

iv. Prepare a map showing the safest line for winter travel in Kokanee, Enterprise, Keen and Woodbury drainages along with basic avalanche and ski touring information for distribution on request from skiers.

v. Public use of park cabins may be administered on a reservation system to prevent overcrowding.

f. Fishing

Objective:

To provide angling opportunities catering to a range of visitor interest.

Actions:

i. Manage angling opportunities in the park and particularly in the Kokanee Creek drainage, at Sunset Lake, Wheeler Lake and Tanal Lake to meet expectations of the majority of park visitors who spend only a small portion of their park visit in fishing and are content with catching small pan size trout.

ii. Provide information to fishermen for disposal of fish offal.

iii. Manage Kokanee Lake, Crazy Jane, Nalmet, Lendrum, Grey Eagle and upper Joker Lake, to provide larger trout and more challenging fishing for dedicated anglers.

iv. Direct heli-fishing use to Grey Eagle, Nalmet and Lendrum Lakes.

v. Reserve Crazy Jane Lake for wilderness hike-in enthusiasts.

g. Horse Use

Objective:

To provide for horse use only where it is appropriate in consideration of terrain, trail and general environmental conditions, and other recreationists.

Specific Actions:

i. Authorize horse use under Park Use Permit or Letter of Authority, only on trails in the Klawala and Nelles Creeks drainages.

ii. Authorize no new permanent facilities for horse use activities in the park beyond any trail upgrading necessary to protect the environment.

h. Mechanized Use

Objective:

To de-emphasize mechanized uses in the park in favour of non-mechanized uses compatible with natural and wilderness experiences.

Specific Actions:

i. Pursuant to Park Act Regulation #52, mechanized conveyances, including A.T.V.'s, O.R.V.'s, motorcycles and snowmobiles, are totally excluded from the park, except to Gibson Lake and along the Keen Creek road.

ii. Pursuant to Section 3.(1).(3) of the Park Act, mountain bicycle riding will not be permitted in the park unless in specifically posted areas or by authority, except to Gibson Lake and along the Keen Creek road.

i. Private Sector Role

Objective:

To consider private sector proposals for the provision of recreation services which are compatible with park objectives and would not otherwise be provided by the Ministry.

Specific Actions:

i. Review private sector proposals in context with park objectives and policies. Appropriate types of commercial activities may include guiding

for winter and summer activities, outdoor training and controlled helicopter use for winter and summer access.

ii. No big game guiding will be permitted in the park.

iii. Administer all commercial recreation activities under Park Use Permit.

3. Management Services

The park will be administered by the West Kootenay District Office, with headquarters at Kokanee Creek Park. Staffing for the park will ensure that various management responsibilities will be carried out according to the guidelines of the master plan and the established policies and procedures of the Ministry. Management and operation functions include:

a. Regulating public use to ensure safe and proper use of the park and its facilities.

b. Maintenance of trails, cabins and other facilities.

c. Application of various hazard control programs and other park user safety measures.

d. Conducting necessary work to prevent user impacts and protection of vegetation, heritage, wildlife and watershed values.

e. Collection of user data and monitoring of environmental conditions.

f. Enforcing Park Act Regulations and conditions of Resource Use Permits for mineral exploration and development.

Staff presence will be maintained through the summer in the Slocan Chief area. Routine patrols will be taken through the Gibson Lake-Kokanee drainage and to all the trailheads. Periodic patrols will be made on all park trails through the

summer. The Slocan Chief area will be staffed through the winter use season. Mountain and winter rescue work will be closely coordinated with local provincial emergency programs and R.C.M.P. forces.

Accommodation is provided for Parks staff in the Slocan Chief area. In the interest of public safety and efficient park management, it is essential that radio link up at the Slocan Chief provide reliable and convenient communication to the outside.

4. **Marketing** (see pages 70-73, Background Report)

   a. **Image**

   The image of Kokanee Glacier Park is intimately linked to Nelson's identity which is based on its natural surroundings. With the "Canadian International College" and an emphasis on heritage, the community of Nelson has developed an international profile and is enjoying economic growth based on tourism. Such growth can be enhanced even more by a closer association with the park. Other local communities such as Slocan, Kaslo, Ainsworth and New Denver also depend on a tourism market and can use Kokanee Glacier Park profitably as a highlight feature in their promotions. The fact that Kokanee Glacier serves as the symbol and name for a popular and widely advertised beer can also be regarded as a positive publicity effort for the park.

   Taken collectively, the image which Kokanee Glacier presently enjoys and which can be exploited is one of wide knowledge of the name. The fact that it has a direct connection to a long list of various human uses over time adds to the image of a "people-accessible backcountry" — an image which can appeal to inexperienced users as well as to those seeking primarily a social aspect in the backcountry. The presence of cabins, information, well defined trails, Ranger staff and easy accessibility in all seasons adds to this image.

b. Promotion

Although presently receiving less than half of its perceived overall carrying capacity, improvements to trails and overnight accommodation facilities will greatly assist this park in achieving its potential as the highest profile backcountry park in the West Kootenays. Combined with numerous local natural and historical attractions, the park can serve as a focus for extended summer and winter vacations. The Kokanee Glacier experience, therefore, will be promoted in conjunction with local communities as a destination attraction which can encourage vacationers to spend more time in the area.

c. Strategy

1. Promotion of the park by the Ministry will be directly tied to a tourist-promotion relationship with Nelson, Kaslo and other nearby communities.

2. Encourage Nelson to adopt Kokanee Glacier as a dominant motif for the town with photographic/artistic displays, calendars, souvenirs, tourism themes and events oriented to this park.

3. Encourage John Labatt Ltd. to sponsor mutually beneficial promotions of the park.

4. Ensure the continued high quality and social element of winter use by constructing a 20 person public cabin in the vicinity of the present Slocan Chief Cabin.

5. Ensure that main access roads are maintained in good two-wheel drive condition.

6. Encourage the International College to adopt Kokanee Glacier as a major promotional image and as a teaching and recreational resource.

7. Upgrade existing trails and overnight facilities to meet the needs and requirements of park users.

G. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. Development

Priority 1 Items

- Improve designated backcountry sites and trails.
- Establish new cabin accommodation in the Slocan Chief area.
- Construct trail to the Molly Gibson minesite.
- Replace Silver Spray Cabin with efficient shelter for 4 season use.

Priority 2 Items

- Establish additional cabin accommodation outside the Slocan Chief area.
- Expand parking facilities to reflect user demands.

2. Resource Management

- Update park resource inventory.
- Develop fisheries management plan.
- Prepare a vegetation management plan.
- Designate and maintain Slocan Chief as a heritage structure.
- Coordinate with Forest Service in visual management plans for the Kokanee Creek drainage and other drainages leading into the park.

3. Visitor Services

- Develop and update information packages:
  - brochures;
  - signs and information shelters.
- Develop exhibit plans and facilities for the Molly Gibson minesite.
- Ensure public safety at old minesites in well used areas of the park.
- Coordinate maintenance of access roads by interministry agreement.
- Maintain trails.

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park and Recreation Area

MASTER PLAN

Appendix A: Background Report

BC Parks

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA

APPENDIX A

Background Report

A. INTRODUCTION

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park, set aside in 1922, is one of the oldest major parks in the provincial system. It has a long history of well established recreational use and is perhaps the best known alpine park in the Kootenay area of British Columbia. Its boundaries encompass 30,554 hectares of some of the most scenic mountain country to be found in the Selkirk Mountains of southern British Columbia, comprising a picturesque mosaic of high peaks, snowfields, cirques and colourful lake basins.

As the dominant feature and roughly in the park's centre, Kokanee Glacier forms the culmination of mountain ridges and valleys leading in from Kootenay Lake and Slocan Lake. Slowly regenerating burns, old growth spruce stands, open slide paths and meadowlands lend contrast and heighten the beauty of the park's mountain landscapes.

The major drainages of Enterprise, Lemon, Kokanee, Coffee, Lendrum, Woodbury and Keen Creeks radiate out from the park and are all develo ed with old mining and forest roads. Leading from these various road ends, trails dating back to early mining developments offer a wide variety of hiking opportunities ranging from short day trips to challenging cross-country routes. Historical cabins and interesting old minesites combine with the many natural features including peaks, lakes and alpine basins to form a rich and diverse environment for backcountry recreation.

The park straddles the crest of mountain ridges between Slocan Lake and Kootenay Lake. Located 30 kilometres to the northeast, the peaks of Kokanee Glacier are visible from the city of Nelson, and stand out as dominant skyline features from many points on Kootenay Lake.

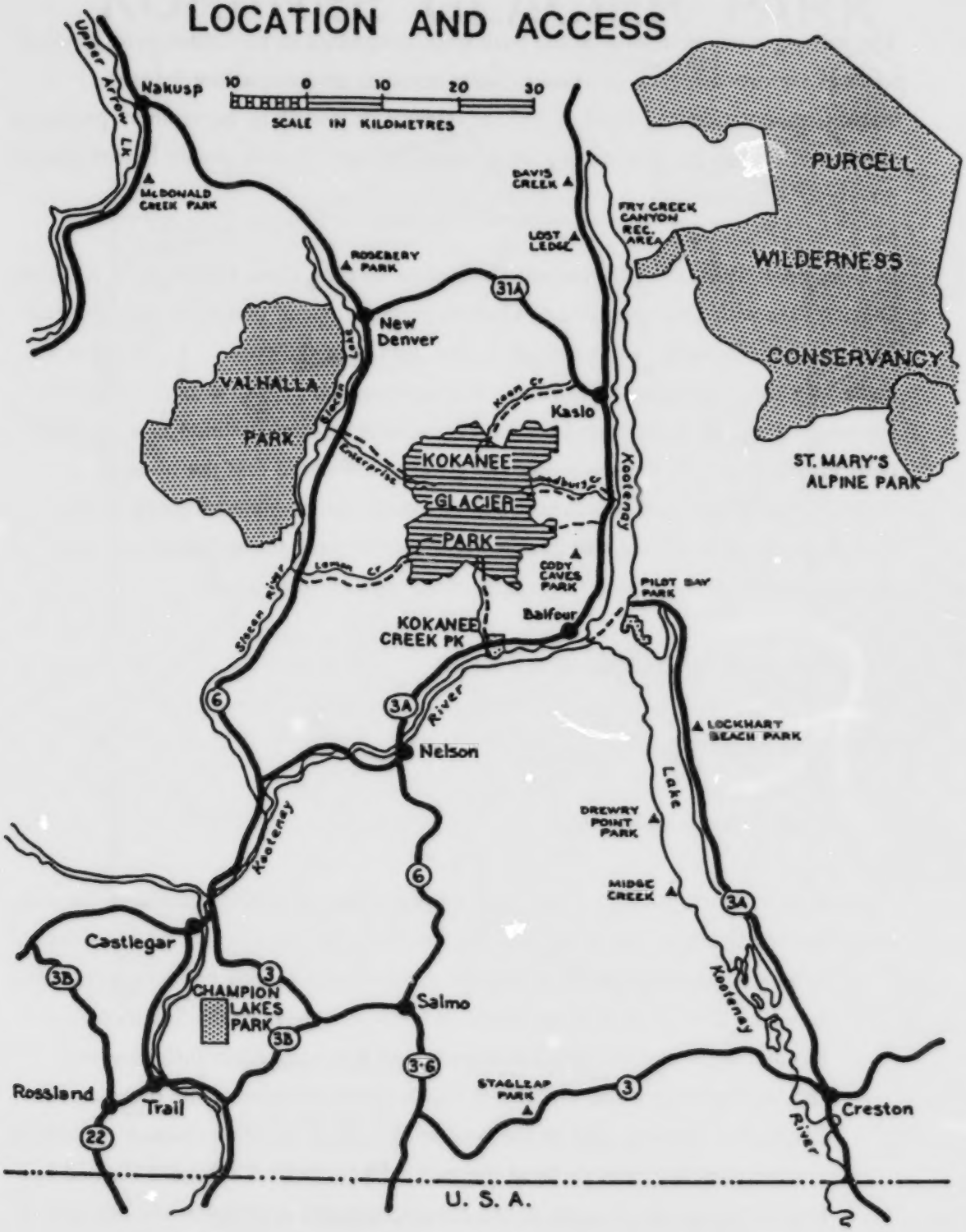
Weather patterns in the park are typical of the Southern Interior Mountains. With the Locations and Access Map whole park area over 1,500 metres, elevation strongly influences weather conditions and while warm spells occur through July and August, park visitors should be aware of the highly changeable nature of mountain weather. Snow and sleet are not uncommon in summer, and rainy weather, many times in the form of thunderstorms, can be expected in the spring, summer and autumn months.

The heavy snowfall accumulations in the park can be counted upon to ensure excellent ski conditions from late autumn to early spring. Snow can occur in October at all levels in the park and the higher elevations are not likely to be snow-free until July. Avalanches are prevalent on the open alpine slopes, limiting ski touring possibilities to certain routes and to low risk periods.

The original park was established and named Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park on June 27, 1924, under the provisions of the Provincial Parks Act, Chapter 187, Revised Statutes of 1911. In the early years the park received little management attention. Growing interest from local communities to improve the situation led to appointment of a 5 member Park Board in 1937 to "manage, regulate and control the Kokanee Glacier Park". On December 14, 1940, the park was given Class "A" status. Administrative complications arising from valid mineral claims forced the revision on June 17, 1965 to Class "B" status.

In the spring of 1987, Government announced decisions to revise park boundaries and to resolve mineral claim issues in the park. The decisions were based on the recommendations of the Wilderness Advisory Committee and the precedent set by the Supreme Court of Canada ruling on mineral claim rights in Wells Gray Park. The park boundaries were amended by Order-in-Council to provide a more rational relationship to topographic and recreation features. Peripheral areas of low recreation value in Timber Creek, Keen Creek and Coffee Creek were deleted and major areas of significant recreation potential (Wheeler Lake, Caribou Ridge) were added as recreation areas.

LOCATION AND ACCESS



The existing mineral tenures in the park were designated as recreation area to allow mineral exploration. The decision was also made to proceed with a 2 year assessment, commencing April 1, 1987, of mineral potentials by government geologists to provide a basis for determining what areas of Class "B" park should be considered for Class "A" status.

In December, 1988, the Government announced that the Class B portion of Kokanee Glacier Park would be upgraded to Class A park status and that no further mineral claim exploration would be permitted in this portion of the park. This decision was made as a result of mineral potential assessments of the park and the strong public opposition that had been voiced against the mineral policies outlined in the initial draft master plan. At the same time the government stated that the mineral potential within the recreation area additions would be evaluated through a time limited exploration process. Decisions to proceed to park status designation over these areas will depend upon the results of the mineral evaluation.

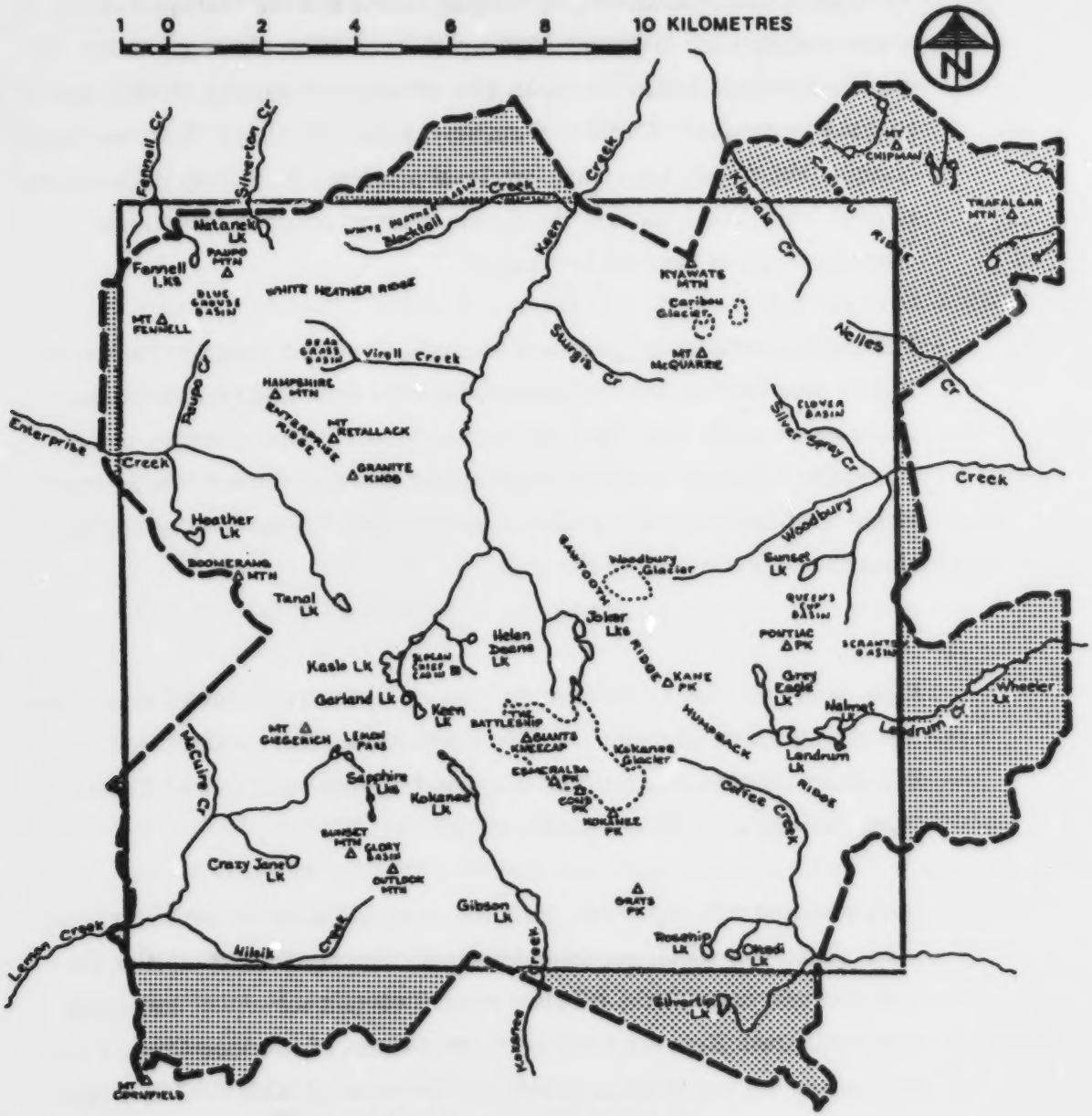
B. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Natural Resources

a. Geology and Physiography

In common with other Columbia Mountain Ranges — the Purcells to the east, the Monashees to the west, and the Cariboo mountains to the north — the Selkirk Mountains display a complex array of rock origins and structures. The Kokanee Glacier area, lying within the Slocan Ranges of the Selkirk Mountains, is underlain by Proterozoic and Mesozoic rocks including very resistant quartzites and limestones which comprise some of the highest peaks. Porphyritic granites, part of the Nelson Plutonic Formation (Nelson Batholith), are the most common rocks of the park. Hydrothermal solutions created by heat of magmatic intrusion of the Nelson batholith resulted in the deposition of mineral-rich veins of silver, lead-zinc and limited amounts of gold. Sedimentary rocks originating 405 - 600 million years ago have been folded in complex bands arcing towards the east.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK



Boundaries and Status

OLD BOUNDARY

NEW BOUNDARY

CLASS A PARK STATUS (PREVIOUS CLASS B) - 23,279 ha

RECREATION AREA STATUS (PROPOSED FOR EVENTUAL CLASS A STATUS) - 7,275 ha

The high serrated peaks, cirques, hanging valleys and the U-shaped valleys of major drainages are the result of past periods of active alpine glaciation. Six glaciers are found within the park. Five of these are quite small (less than 1 sq. km.) — Retallack, Caribou, Woodbury, Kane, and Grays. Kokanee Glacier occupies about 4 sq. km. Other erosional processes, particulary mass wasting through frost action, are now the dominant forces affecting the gradual changing shape of the park landscapes.

The highest peaks in the park — Esmeralda, Cond and Kokanee Peak — all slightly over 2,800 metres (9,000 feet), form the crest of Kokanee Glacier. Other major peaks and ridges are Mt. McQuarrie on the northeast corner, Enterprise and White Heather ridges on the northwest corner, the Sawtooth Ridge northeast of Kokanee Glacier, and the series of mountains ranging along the southwest side of the park.

b. Water

Eight drainages radiate out from the park — Keen Creek and Silverton Creek towards the north, Kokanee Creek to the south, Coffee, Lendrum and Woodbury Creeks along the east side, and Enterprise and Lemon Creeks along the west side. Water quality is high.

Deeply incised tributary creeks lead from cirqued basins on the high ridges which generally parallel the main drainages. The top ends of most of the drainages and many of the tributary streams contain sub-alpine and alpine lakes and tarns. Kokanee Lake at the headwaters of Kokanee Creek, Kaslo Lake at the top end of Keen Creek, and the series of lakes — Grey Eagle, Lendrum and Nalmet — leading into Lendrum Creek are the larger lakes (15 -20 ha) in the park.

c. Vegetation, Soils and Climate

Biophysical conditions in the park are strongly influenced by the harsh climatic conditions associated with high elevations.

Forest stands of Interior western hemlock and red cedar occupy the lower valley slopes below the 1,600 metre level. This is the most temperate biotic zone in the park where the expected number of frost-free days is 100 - 150 and annual precipitation averages over 170 cm, with snowfall levels of 673 cm. The humo-ferric podzol soils of this zone are generally porous and well drained.

Subalpine forests of Engelmann spruce and alpine fir form the predominant forest cover in the park, ranging from 1,600 m to 2,000 m on southern exposures and 1,500 m to 2,000 m on the northerly aspects. Precipitation levels are 180 cm and snowfall totals 1,000 cm. The soils, also humo-ferric podzols, are much shallower than in the lower forest and are developed from colluvium and till materials over bedrock. Vacciniums, false azaleas, white rhododendron, mountain valerian, fireweed, foam flower, arnica and pyrola are common shrubs and flowers of this zone.

Slide paths, snowmelt and drainage conditions, soil disruptions and microclimatic variations have increasing effect on forest growth patterns as elevations approach the alpine. The upper forest levels of tightly grown clumps of alpine fir and Engelmann spruce and open glades of alpine larch are interspersed with extensive forb and sedge meadows. Poorly drained areas at these elevations form saturated gleysols while brunisols tend to develop in turfy alpine meadowlands. Thick pockets of krummholz and dwarfed specimens of alpine larch and white bark pine grow at the highest levels of the alpine fringe. Dryas, heather and phlox grow in protected niches on the ridges and lichens survive at the highest levels.

The open landscapes and colourful flowered slopes in the Slocan Chief area are the result of the major fire in 1932 which burned an extensive area ranging from Kaslo Lake through the upper end of Enterprise Valley and across the Keen Creek drainage.

d. Wildlife and Fish

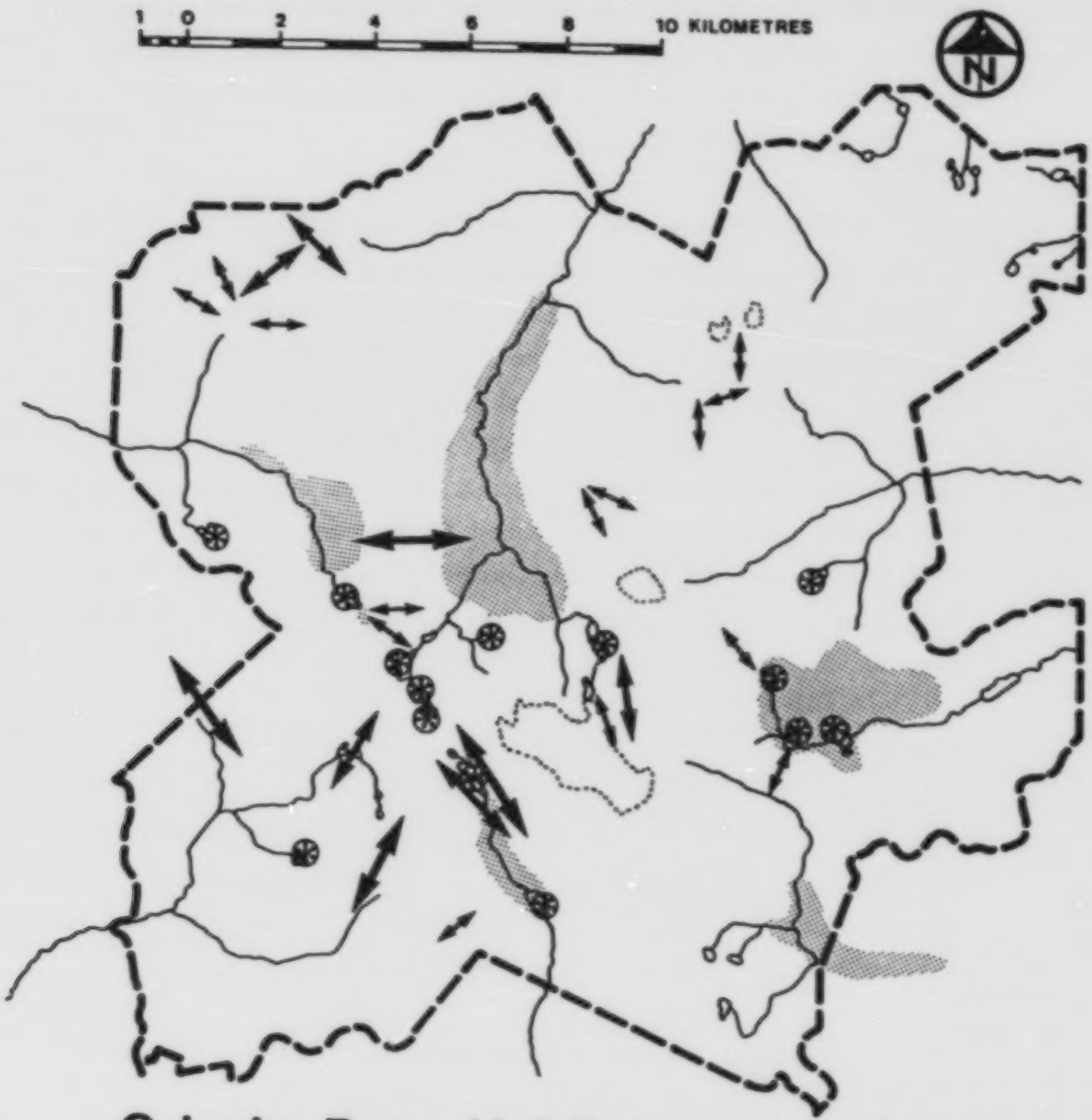
Although animals that symbolize wilderness mountain country — the ptarmigan, mountain goat and grizzly bear — are present, in general the park is not well known for its wildlife. Severe winter conditions and cool, short summer seasons pose limiting factors on the diversity and abundance of wildlife.

There have been over 60 positive bird species sightings in the park. The most commonly noticed by park visitors are Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Dark-eyed Oregon Junco and the Varied Thrush.

While there appear to be no outstanding populations of mammals, various species are often observed. Of the small mammals, ground squirrels are numerous in the meadows and open slopes, as are pikas and marmots along the rock slides and talus slopes. Goats range in scattered herds along the isolated ridges above Coffee Pass, Enterprise, Woodbury and Keen Creeks. While black bears occur extensively throughout the park, grizzly bears are more often observed because of their tendency to roam the more open terrain. Wolverine, cougar and lynx are known to travel in the park but are very rarely seen. There are few mule deer in the park as extensive and preferred deer habitat lies outside the boundaries.

The extensive burn of the 1930's which extended across the top ends of Keen and Enterprise Creeks is considered prime grizzly habitat. The regrowth is now a significant food attraction for the bears. Unfortunately, the same area is well used by hikers. Grizzly bears also feed throughout the subalpine and alpine zones, tending to concentrate on the slide paths, meadows, open slopes, stream edges and in forested areas where blueberries occur in the undergrowth. Park trails, lakes, meadows and many other areas frequented by visitors coincide with bear habitat. With increasing numbers of visitors, many of whom are inexperienced, there is concern that bears are becoming

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK



Grizzly Bear Habitat and Fisheries

POTENTIAL MOVEMENT CORRIDORS OVER MOUNTAIN PASSES

CORE GRIZZLY HABITAT – Wet Meadows, Slide Paths and some Huckleberry Patches

PRIMARY FISHING LAKES

habituated to people and consequently losing their innate shyness. There is evidence, based upon observations and reports from the public and Ranger staff, of some park bears showing aggressive tendencies, increasing the likelihood of serious bear/hiker encounters.

There are 25 lakes in the park, of which 18 have fish. Many of the lakes were stocked years ago by miners, and stocking programs were carried out during the late 1960's and early 1970's. Yellowstone Cutthroat trout is the most common fish species; a few of the lakes have Rainbow trout. Many of the lakes lack suitable spawning habitat and the smaller and shallower ones tend to suffer from winter kill. Kokanee, Kaslo, Sunset, Upper Joker and Nalmet Lakes contain the most productive fisheries. All of the major creek drainages have resident populations of either or both Rainbow and Cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden char. Keen Creek also has Brook trout (char). Over recent years there has been some stocking of lakes in the park carried out by the Recreational Fisheries Branch in conjunction with Parks.

e. Recreation Features

Kokanee Glacier Park contains outdoor recreation features characteristic of a rugged, high elevation mountain area. Steep-sided mountains, alpine valleys, small lakes, glaciers and glacial landforms are among the noteworthy recreation features. Human history is also important as much of the park has been explored for minerals, resulting in some small active mines in the past.

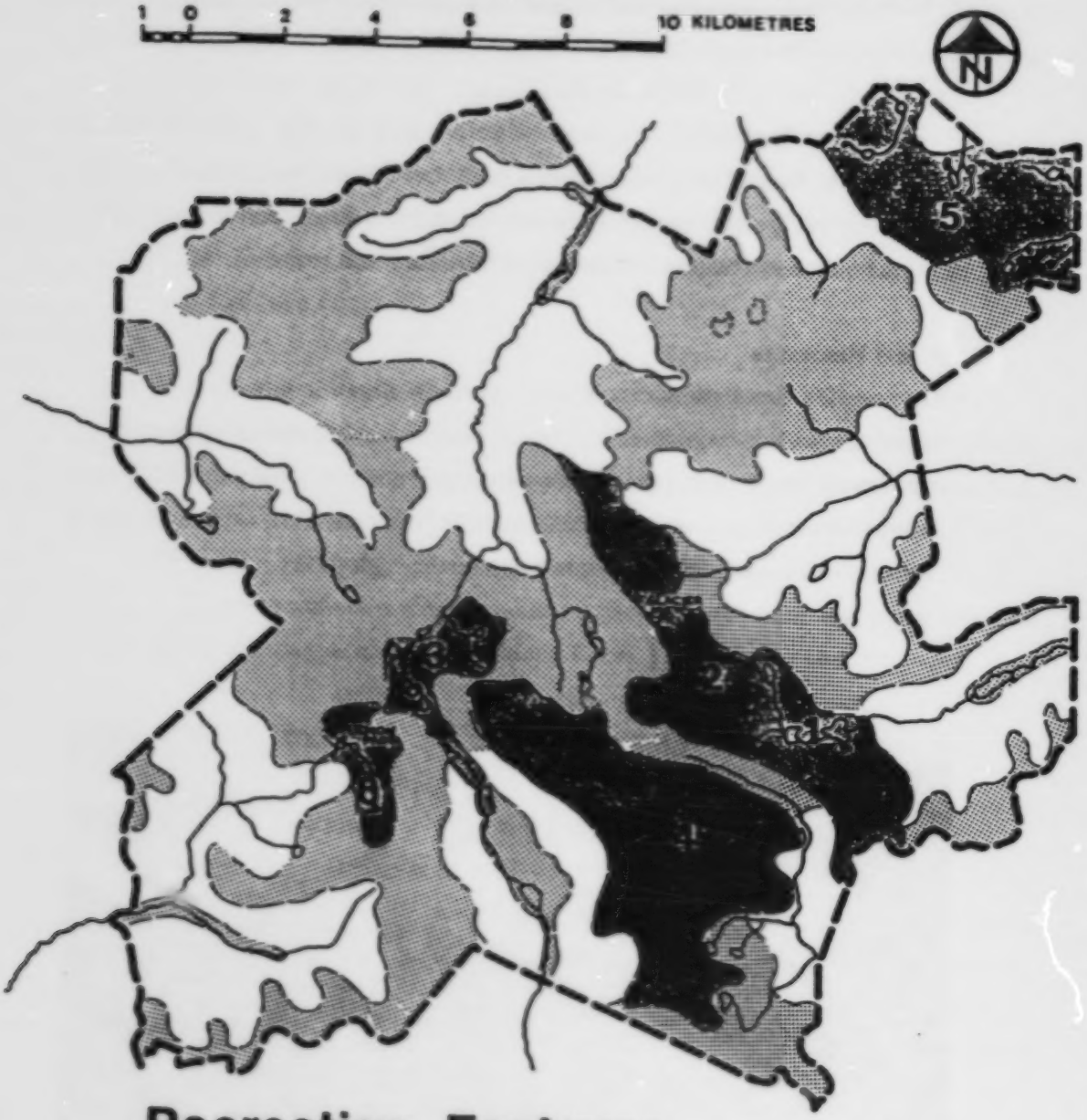
The primary outdoor recreation features include the following:

i. Provincially-significant alpine and sub-alpine vegetation:
Kokanee Lake meadows, Keen Lake meadows, Lemon Pass and Lendrum Creek headwaters.

ii. Provincially-significant mountain scenery including Humpback Ridge, Glacier View Peak, Gray's Peak, Trafalgar Mountain and Caribou Ridge.

iii. Provincially-significant alpine lakes including Kokanee, Lendrum, Keen, Kaslo, Nalmet and Sapphire Lakes.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK



Recreation Features

HIGH/PROVINCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

MODERATE/REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

* Based on uniqueness within Region and Province

* 1 Londrum Lake subalpine parkland
2 Humpback Ridge - Glacier View Peak mountain scenery
3 Kokanee Lake - Keen Lake alpine
4 Kokanee Peak - Greys Peak - Kokanee Glacier
5 Trafalgar Mountain
6 Lemon Pass alpine basin

iv. Provincially and regionally-significant glacier and glacial landform features exemplified by Kokanee Glacier, Woodbury Glacier and landforms found in the Joker Basin-Coffee Pass area.

v. Regionally-significant streams, waterfalls and cascades including Kokanee Creek, Keen Creek, Woodbury Creek, Lendrum Creek and Lemon Creek.

vi. Regionally-significant historic recreation features related to past mining activities in the park — Slocan Chief Cabin and trails.

f. Visual Resources

Kokanee Glacier Park is renowned as an area of scenic mountain beauty. While the park is dominated by rugged mountains, it presents a surprising diversity of visual resources. The steep-sided mountain valleys provide rich contrasts in texture and colour between old growth forests, avalanche slopes and exposed rock ridges and snowfields of the high peaks.

Gibson Lake

Panoramic vistas are attained from numerous locations throughout the park. Among the most spectacular are the surrounding views from Kokanee Lake, Joker Lakes and Slocan Chief.

Focal attractions and localized visual features abound in the park. These include Lemon Pass which contains the beautiful clear Sapphire Lakes; Gibson Lake; Kokanee Lake and the adjacent lush alpine meadows; Lendrum Lakes; and Kokanee Glacier.

The visual sensitivity of the alpine and subalpine slopes will be a primary consideration in decisions relating to mineral development in the recreation area portions of the park. Views down into the various watersheds leading from the park are vulnerable to disturbance by road construction and timber harvesting. Coordinated management by the Ministry of Forest and Lands is required to maintain visual qualities adjacent to the park and along key park access drainages, of which Kokanee Creek is of primary concern.

2. Cultural Resources

The Kokanee Glacier area has a rich and interesting history of alpine mining beginning as far back as the late 1880's. During the mining boom of nearby Sandon and the Slocan, the mountains surrounding Kokanee Glacier were rapidly and thoroughly explored and by the early 1900's there were many claims staked and small operating mine developments throughout the area of the present-day Park. In many seemingly random deposits, the prevalent ore findings were silver, lead, zinc and small amounts of gold.

During the early years of development, transportation was by horse, with the animals normally packing out 200 lbs. of ore each. When the trails were covered by snow the ore was "rawhided" (hauled on crude rawhide sleds behind a horse). Because of these difficulties, highgrading was common and only the very richest ores were packed out. Adit mining was the predominant technique and at the

Revenue and Violet Mines tramway rails and ore cars can still be seen rusting at tunnel entrances.

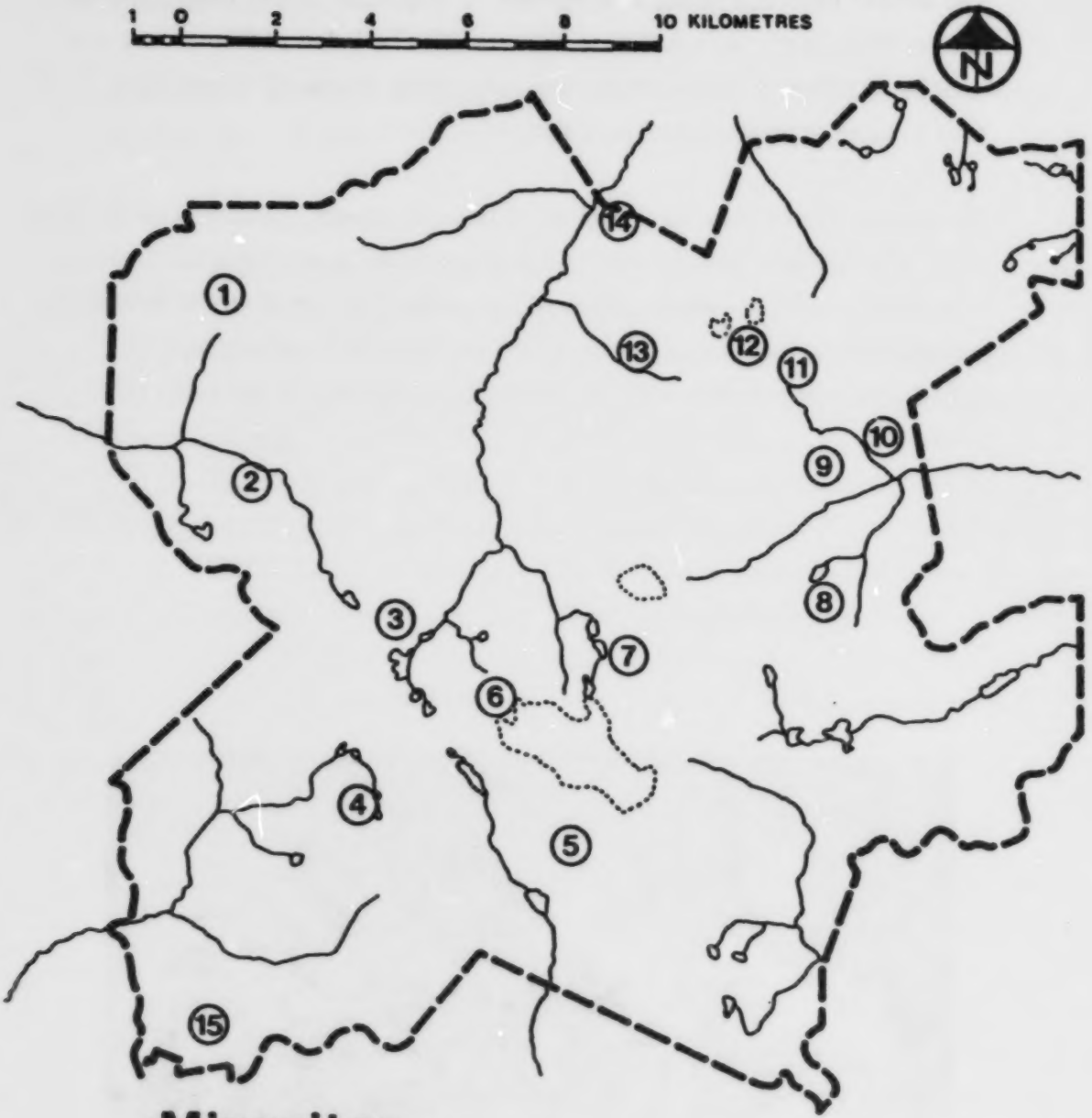
The mountainous terrain often added its own particular difficulties. At one of the claims in Glory Basin the shaft was driven into the face of a bluff and the miners had to be lowered by rope from the cliff top to the mine portal with a 1,400 ft. vertical drop below them.

Mineral values in claims throughout the park were extremely variable. They ranged from uneconomic, as in the Snowstorm claim near Kaslo Lake, to extremely rich, such as the Boomerang Mine on Enterprise Creek with a single vein of silver assayed at 3,900 oz. per ton of ore.

The news of mineral riches soon spread overseas and by 1900 the Joker group of claims was being operated by a Monsieur J.J. Fleutot for a French syndicate. After a rich start, producing $20.00 of gold per ton of ore, the vein failed and by 1904 the claims were no longer being worked.

Of all the mines begun, only two were really successful: Molly Gibson and the Scranton property. The Scranton Mine, its claim granted in 1906, was worked as recently as 1979, producing gold, silver, lead and zinc from its operation on Pontiac Creek. The Molly Gibson Mine, above Gibson Lake, was in production from 1899 to 1950, yielding a total of 12 oz. gold, 998,626 oz. silver, 4,991,560 lbs. lead and 20,376 lbs. of zinc. During its operating period, Molly Gibson had more than its share of disasters. In 1902 a large snowslide struck the camp, killing several miners and destroying the tramway. A second snowslide in 1912 - 13 winter hit the tramway again, smashing about 2 1/2 miles of construction. In 1921 the tramway was once more destroyed, this time by fire. This was perhaps the last straw, as production never regained its former levels and the mine gradually slowed to a shutdown by 1950.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK



Minesites

1. Para
2. Boomerang
3. Snowstorm
4. Silver Crest
5. Molly Gibson
6. Smuggler
7. Joker
8. Scranton
9. Ontario No. 2
10. Baltimore
11. Cable
12. Violet
13. Revenue
14. Index
15. Alpine

The miners' trails and cabins have become an important part of today's Kokanee Glacier Park. Park trails that were once travelled by laden packhorses are now used by hundreds of hikers every year, while cabins, Slocan Chief and Silver Spray, have become popular rendezvous points.

The Slocan Chief Cabin has a long and interesting history. Originally constructed in 1896 for use as a base for mining operations in the area, its use and appearance underwent periods of change. Many of the outdoors people from the local area, and particularly long-time members of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club contributed much of their time and labour to maintenance of the cabin for recreation.

Slocan Chief Cabin

3. Resource Analysis

This section considers the significance of the resources of the park relative to the conservation and recreation purposes of the provincial park system.

a. Conservation Significance

i. Landscape Representation

The park represents typical sub-alpine landscapes and biological conditions of the Selkirk Ranges of the Southern Columbia Mountains. These conditions are also well represented in Valhalla Provincial Park.

ii. Cultural

The many remains of small scale mining operations in the park are typical of the turn-of-the-century mineral industry in British Columbia. While none of these sites are in themselves famous or particulary special, they add historical and human interest to the landscape.

The Molly Gibson Mine is the best situated of the minesites in the park for interpretation of early alpine mining.

As one of the few remaining structures of the pre 1900's mining era, the Slocan Chief Cabin is considered to have provincial heritage value. None of the other cabins in the park rate provincial heritage significance.

b. Recreation Significance

Within the Provincial Parks of the Kootenays, Kokanee Glacier Park holds special appeal for backcountry recreation. The various road accesses to close vicinity of the park's recreation and scenic features in combination with well established trails, cabins and campsites, provide attractive situations for summer day-use and backpacking. The traditional well used areas of the park, the Kokanee Creek drainage and the Slocan Chief in particular, are well suited to capabilities and aspirations of families and inexperienced backcountry recreationists. There are also remote pristine areas of the park offering challenge and attraction for wilderness enthusiasts.

Slocan Chief Area

With the use of helicopter access and the Slocan Chief cabin for winter accommodation, the park has become a major winter destination for ski touring. There is potential to expand winter opportunities into other areas of the park, and to establish a hut to hut ski traverse from Kokanee Glacier to the Woodbury drainage.

The park's recreation resources can be assessed based on analysis of recreation feature ratings, scenic appeal, accessibility and use potentials:

Subalpine/Alpine Basins

The small lake basins, meadow areas and stream environments associated with the open subalpine and alpine regions form a primary recreation focus of the park.

High Value Areas

Slocan Chief Area
Kaslo Lake Area
Kokanee Lake Area
Joker Lakes Area
Lendrum-Nalmet Lakes Area
Crazy Jane Lake Area
Lemon Pass-Glory Basin
Queen's Cup Basin
Clover Basin-Silver Spray
Upper Woodbury
Blue Grouse Basin
Sturgis Creek
Glory Basin-Sapphire Lakes

Moderate Value Areas

Tanal Lake Area
Heather Lake Area
Scranton Basin
White Heather Basin
Bear Grass Basin
Nilsik Creek
Alpine Basin

Mid Elevations

The forested portions of Lemon Creek, Kokanee Creek, Coffee Creek, Lendrum Creek, Enterprise, Keen and Woodbury Creek drainages have intrinsic corridor

and buffer zone visual values, but with the exception of the Gibson Lake and Wheeler Lake areas, they contain limited potential for recreation.

High Value Areas	Moderate Value Areas
Gibson Lake	Keen Creek Valley
Wheeler Lake	Enterprise Creek Valley
	Lemon Creek Valley
	Coffee Creek Valley
	Woodbury Creek Valley
	Lendrum Creek Valley

Mountain Alpine Terrain

The alpine regions of the park offer numerous possibilities for mountaineering, ridge walking and interconnecting backpacking trips. Most of the ridge routes lack trails, requiring careful route finding and rigorous scrambling.

High Value Areas	Moderate Value Areas
Kokanee Glacier	Boomerang Mt. Area
Enterprise Ridge	White Heather Ridge
Gray's Peak	Mount Ruppel
Mt. McQuarrie	
Pontiac Peak	
Sawtooth Ridge	
Outlook Mt. Area	
Caribou Ridge Area	
Humpback Ridge-Kane Peak	

C. TENURES, OCCUPANCY RIGHTS, AND JURISDICTIONS

1. Leases and Use Permits (granting an interest in land)

P.U.P. #959 Ministry of Forests; repeater station — Kokanee Peak.

2. **Fee Simple Lands**

None.

3. **Forest Tenures**

None.

4. **Water Rights**

A Crown water licence is held by Parks to maintain a small dam at the outlet of Gibson Lake. The purpose is to regulate the lake's water level to enhance recreational values.

5. **Trapping**

There are no traplines within the Class "A" portion of the park, however, traplines extend into all of the new recreation area additions.

6. **Rights of Way**

a. Kokanee Creek Road — Public (Section 6) Plan 6T282
b. F.R. Project 942-206 (Enterprise Creek)
c. Scranton Mine Access Road 79 (P.U.P.)
d. Keen Creek Road is a public road only to (and not within) the park boundary.

7. **Mineral Rights**

a. In the Class "A" status area there are 46 mineral claims involving 11 independent owners. These are as follows:

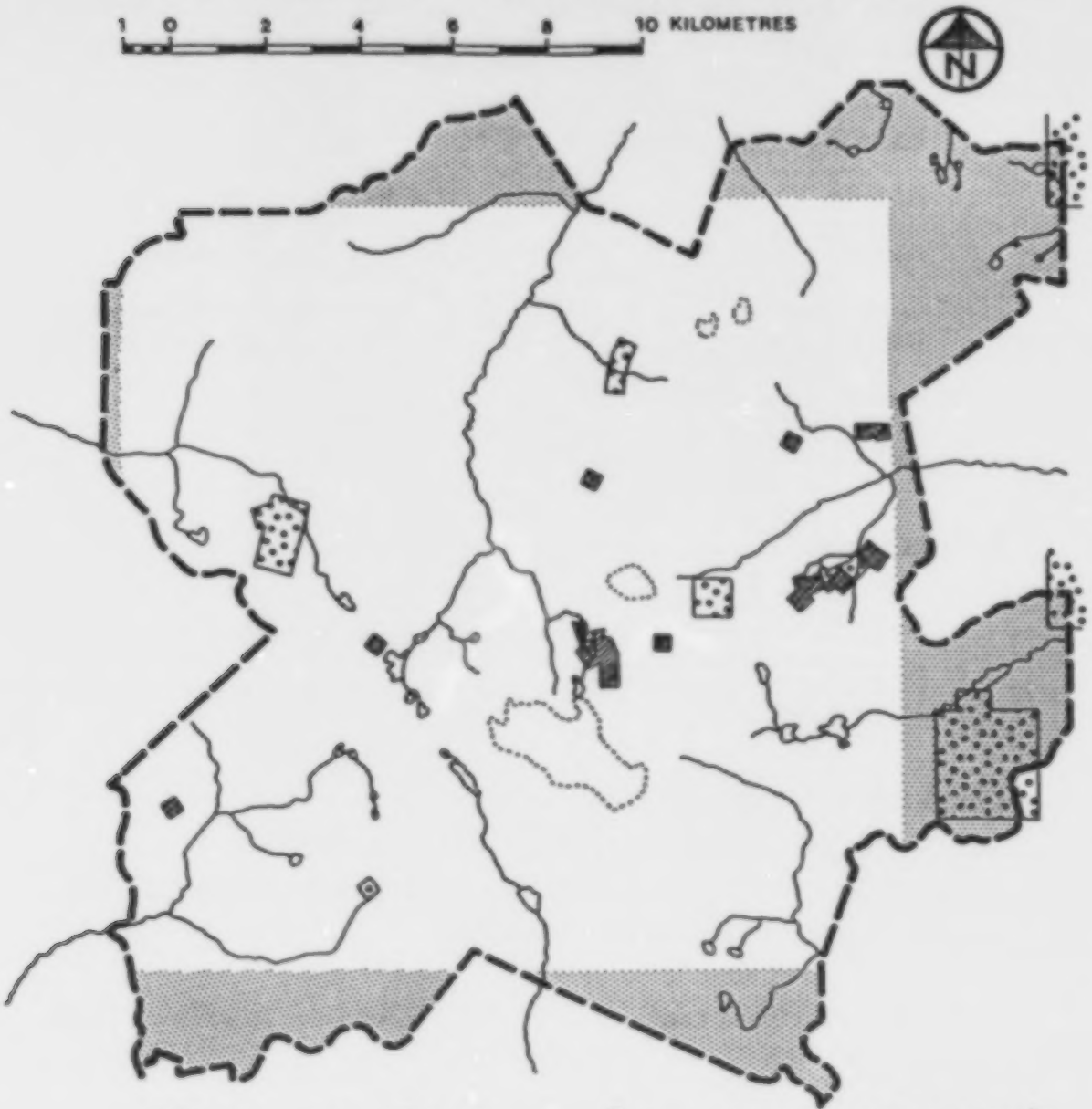
Crown Granted Claims

Name of Claim	Claim Number	Owner
Ontario #2	3182	J.K. MacDonald
Maple Leaf	10058	J.K. MacDonald
Grafton	10059	J.K. MacDonald
Barnett	2888	Hugh G. Blancy
North America	6269	T.M. Besecker and C.S. Cranston
Silver Cup	6507	T.M. Besecker and C.S. Cranston
Joker	3891	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
Derby	3892	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
Tony	3894	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
Treadwall	4118	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
John A.	4119	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
-----	14375	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
Bertha	4748	Scurry-Rainbow Oils Ltd.
Blackburn	5190	Mary Jane Hall
Tecumsie	2261	David Minerals Ltd.
Pontiac	2265	David Minerals Ltd.
Scranton	7452	David Minerals Ltd.
Sunrise	5991	David Minerals Ltd.
Grandview	6279	David Minerals Ltd.
Granite	6278	David Minerals Ltd.

Other Mineral Claims

Name of Claim	Claim Number	Owner
Richmond	6774	G.A. Forster
Boomerang	6775	G.A. Forster
Apex	6776	G.A. Forster
Silver Ranch #1-12	16598-16609	Silver Ranch Minerals Ltd.
Bob	17637	David Minerals Ltd.
Charley	17538	David Minerals Ltd.
Revenue Group	7138-41	R.H. Murphy
Megan	13859	D. Pearce
Jim	13860	D. Pearce
Mike	13861	D. Pearce
Dan	13862	D. Pearce

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK



Mineral Claims (as of April 1987)

CROWN GRANTED MINERAL CLAIMS

MINERAL CLAIMS OR LEASES

CLASS A PARK

RECREATION AREA ADDITIONS

b. In the new additions classified as recreation areas, there are 12 mineral claims involving 4 independent owners. These are as follows: (As of April 1987)

Name of Claim	Claim Number	Owner
A1 (10)	3958	James Kennedy
A1 (3)-A1 (8)	17960-17965	A. Tarr and S. Hansen
Golden Dragon	3872	Golden Dragon Resources Ltd.
Dragon South	4034	Golden Dragon Resources Ltd.
Auburn	4353	R.B. Stewart
Bearcat	4355	R.B. Stewart
Packard	4356	R.B. Stewart

8. Other Special Tenures

a. No archaeological sites.
b. No guide-outfitting territories.
c. No informal tenures.

D. RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The resources of Kokanee Glacier Park offer provincial and regionally-significant backcountry recreation opportunities relating to:

1. Day hiking — Gibson Lake, Kokanee Lake, Wheeler Lake, Joker Lakes, Sunset Lake.

2. Backpacking — ranging from intensively used areas of the Slocan Chief to remote, untrailed ridges and alpine basins.

3. Mountaineering, rock climbing, snow, ice, glacier travel — high ridges and peaks, especially in Kokanee Glacier and Woodbury Glacier areas.

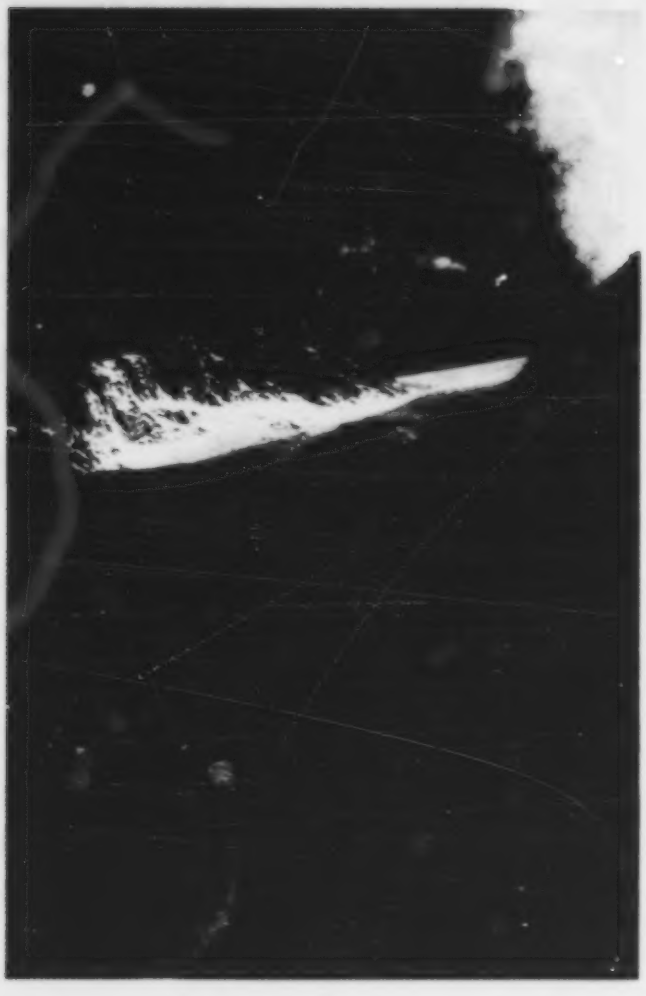
4. Angling — most lakes and streams contain small trout.

Gibson Lake Trail

5. Nature appreciation, photography — variety of accessible subalpine and alpine settings offer excellent diversity for study of mountain environments.

6. History appreciation — old minesites, especially the Molly Gibson minesite, Slocan Chief Cabin.

7. Nordic skiing — excellent ski touring based out of the Slocan Chief area; potential in the Kaslo Lake-Griffin Creek and Silver Spray areas for expanded winter opportunities.



Winter Skiing

E. PRESENT ACCESS AND FACILITIES

1. Access

There are presently six main access roads leading to the park, each oriented to a major drainage system. Road conditions can vary from year to year, but all are usually passable by two-wheel drive vehicles. These roads are maintained by

various interests including the Ministry of Parks, Ministry of Highways, Ministry of Forests and private mining and forestry operations.

a. Kokanee Creek Road

This is the most frequently used entrance into the park. The gravel surface road climbs almost continuously, gaining 1,094 metres in 16 kilometres between Kootenay and Gibson Lakes.

Because of the gravel surface and the steep grade, this road is usually loose and in rough condition. Erosion and avalanche damage during winter and spring are major problems, particularly along the many slide paths past the 11-kilometre point. Road closure dates are dependent on snowfall and spring thaw conditions.

b. Keen Creek Road

The Keen Creek route leaves Highway 31A, 4.8 kilometres north of Kaslo and follows Keen Creek 24 kilometres to the parking area at Joker Millsite. The road surface is compacted gravel and is narrow, with occasional pullouts to allow passing.

c. Lendrum Creek Road

The Lendrum Creek road provides access to the east boundary of the park and Wheeler Lake via a 6.5-kilometre gravel road that branches off Hwy. 31A, north of Ainsworth. This road is steep and generally rough.

d. Woodbury Creek Road

The Woodbury Creek road reaches the park via 12.8 kilometres of gravel road that branches off Highway 31, 9.6 kilometres north of Ainsworth. The road follows Woodbury Creek to a Forest Service Recreation site on the east boundary of the park. This access is poorly maintained and in some years is impassable to low clearance vehicles.

e. Lemon Creek Road

The Lemon Creek road, which leads off Highway 6 about 8 kilometres south of Slocan City, provides access to the southwest corner of the park. The 16 kilometres of gravel road is maintained by the Forest Service and Slocan Forest Products and is generally considered in good condition.

f. Enterprise Creek Road

The Enterprise Creek road, off Highway 6, 1.6 kilometres north of the Enterprise Creek bridge, allows access to the northwestern section of the park. The 12.8 kilometres of gravel road is used by mining and forestry interests and is maintained in generally good condition. The road ends just inside the park.

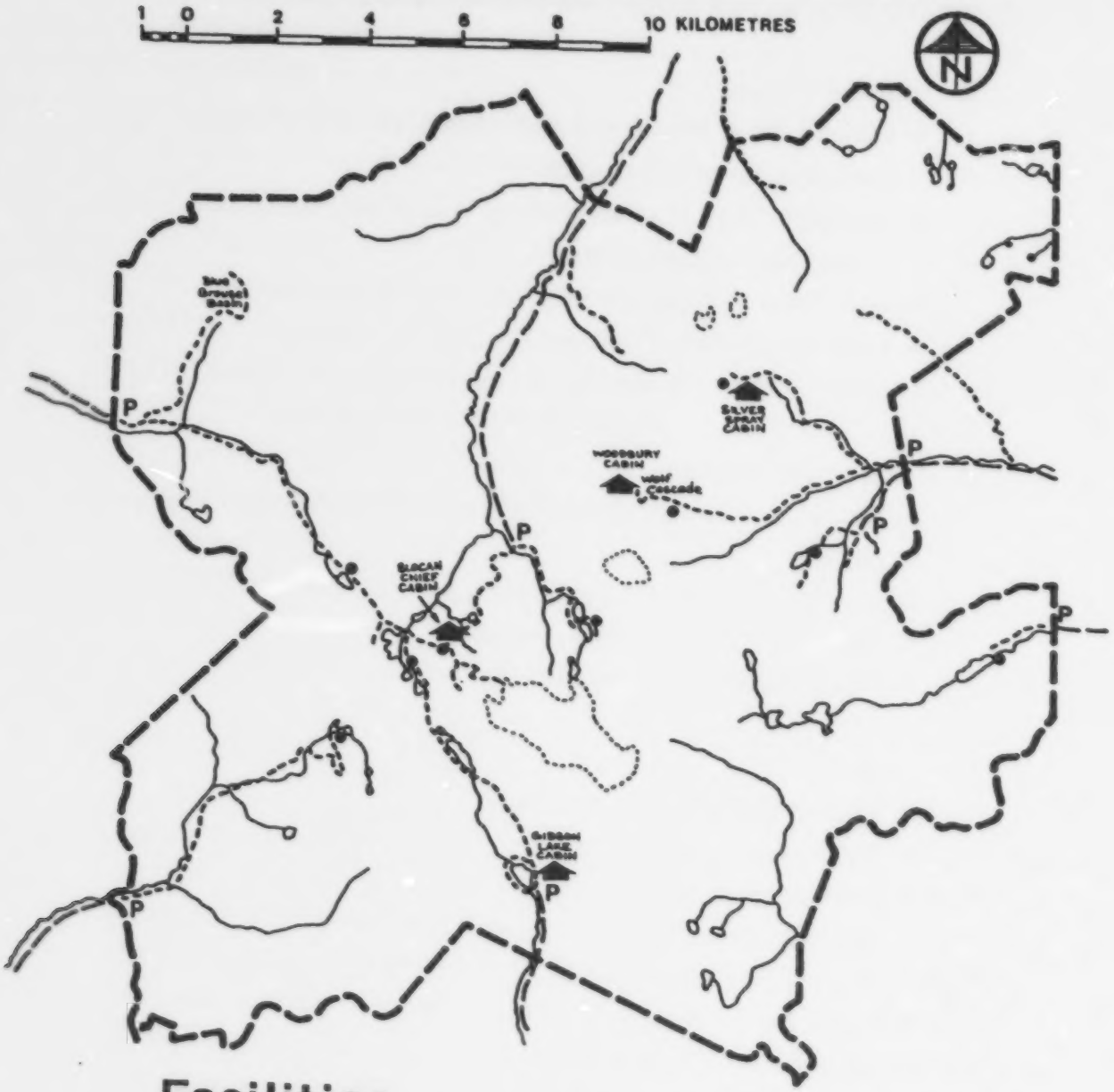
This road may in some years be plowed during the winter, depending on Slocan Forest Products' logging plans.

2. Facilities

The traditional visitor use patterns have essentially set directions and priorities for development and management of the park. Development has been mostly concentrated in the Kokanee Creek drainage, from the Gibson Lake parking lot to the Slocan Chief Cabin area. Through the years the secondary access routes to the Slocan Chief area have also been improved. The Woodbury drainage has received attention with construction of the Woodbury Creek hut and maintenance of the Silver Spray hut.

Funding priorities have limited improvement work beyond the immediate areas of prime use, however, periodic and low levels of maintenance have been carried out on the less used areas of the park whenever staff time and funding has permitted.

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK



Facilities

GRAVEL ROAD
FOOT TRAIL
P PARKING AREA
CABIN
CAMPSITE

In summary form, the park facilities and trails are listed as follows:

a. **Trailhead Parking**

- Gibson Lake — 40-vehicle capacity, toilets, information shelter, 4 tables, fire circles, car-top boat launch.
- Woodbury Creek — 10 unit parking, tables, toilet, information shelters.
- Sunset Lake — 3 unit parking.
- Keen Creek — 10 unit parking, information shelter, toilet.
- Enterprise Creek — 5 unit parking, information shelter.
- Lemon Creek — 10 unit parking, tables, information shelter.

b. **Shelter Accommodation**

- Slocan Chief Cabin, summer — 12 people per night, winter — 12 people per night.
- Silver Spray Cabin — 4 people per night.
- Woodbury Cabin — 8 people per night.
- Gibson Lake Cabin — for day-use.

c. **Campsites**

- Kaslo-Garland Lakes — 10 sites
- Slocan Chief — 30 sites, toilets
- Tanal Lake — 5 sites
- Sapphire Lakes — 5 sites
- Silver Spray — 10 sites
- Sunset Lake — 5 sites
- Joker Lakes — 10 sites
- Blue Grouse Basin — 10 sites
- Woodbury Creek cabin area — 10 sites

d. **Trails**

Excellent Condition

- Gibson Lake loop — 2 km

Well Maintained — Good Condition

- Enterprise Creek — 6.4 km
- Woodbury Creek — 8.8 km
- Kokanee Lake to Kaslo Lake to Slocan Chief — 9.6 km
- Keen Creek to Helen Deane Lake — 4.8 km
- Joker Lakes — 4.8 km
- Silver Spray — 8 km
- Sunset Lake — 3 km
- Wheeler Lake — 8.8 km
- Lemon Creek — 9 km

Periodic Maintenance — Reasonable Condition

- Lemon Creek — 9.6 km

Little or No Maintenance — Poor Condition

- Sturgis Creek — 6.5 km
- Blue Grouse Basin — 6.4 km
- Nelles Creek
- Klawala Creek

F. MARKET ANALYSIS

1. Existing Use

Visitor data has been primarily collected through trail registers since 1976. It is suspected that only 25% of the visitors sign the registers and for this reason the data is not considered accurate, but nevertheless serves as a good indicator of relative numbers. Use is also closely observed and monitored by Park Ranger staff, providing a valuable source of corroborative information. Car counters were installed on the main access drainages into the park in 1989 to provide a consistent basis to measure use.

The breakdown of recorded use for 1990 is indicative of relative numbers and normal distribution patterns of visitors throughout the park:

Trail/Drainage	Numbers	Percent
Kokanee Creek drainage (Slocan Chief-Gibson Lake)	10,494	70.3%
Keen Creek (Joker Lakes)	1,362	9.2%
Enterprise Creek	1,050	7.0%
Lemon Creek	300	2.0%
Woodbury-Silver Spray	1,710	11.5%
Total:	14,916	100.0%

Park use has increased dramatically over the last fifteen years. In 1976 there were 2,627 recorded visitors in comparison to 4,808 in 1979; 9,596 in 1983; 10,026 in 1986, and 14,916 in 1990. The use season in most years extends from about mid-June to mid-October in summer and from December to mid-May in winter. Use increases suddenly in mid-July after the snowmelt period, peaks in August, and decreases rapidly after mid-September. Winter use is evenly distributed at cabin capacity via a lottery system and averages 1,100 - 1,300 users a year.

Day visits form the dominant use pattern throughout most of the park, averaging over 70%. The popular day trips are the Gibson Lake loop, Kokanee Lake, Sunset Lake, Joker Lakes, Wheeler Lake, Tanal Lake, and the Blue Grouse Basin. The Slocan Chief cabin area is by far the most popular overnight area in the park, followed by the Woodbury Creek hut area and the Silver Spray area. Enterprise Creek, Lemon Creek and Keen Creek are used primarily as routes into the heartland of the park, either as interconnecting loops or through trips.

Over 40% of park visitors are from the West Kootenays, 25% from other areas of the province, 15% from other Canadian provinces, 15% from the United States, and about 5% from other origins. Tourist use is primarily occurring in the Kokanee Creek drainage and the Slocan Chief area. Use of the remainder of the park has been mostly oriented to locals.

Party size averages over 3.0 people. There are usually 30 or more groups of 10+ people using the park each year. Most of these large groups visit the Kokanee Slocan Chief area and stay an average of one week.

Based on general observations by Parks staff, a large number of visitors using the Kokanee Creek drainage are either inexperienced or groups with novice members whereas the other drainages tend to attract a higher proportion of intermediate to expert backcountry users.

Hiking is by far the most popular activity in the park, followed by backpacking, fishing, climbing, photography and nature study in the summer seasons. Ski-touring and downhill skiing on the most accessible slopes along with photography are the main winter activities.

Winter recreation has developed as a significant use factor. Almost all activity is centered around the Slocan Chief area, with Smuggler Ridge and Kokanee Glacier forming the major attractions. Most parties fly into the Slocan Chief by helicopter and make day excursions from the cabin on either touring or telemark equipment. Most of the groups ski out via Kokanee Creek or fly out. Generally, the skiers tend to be experienced and well equipped. In 1979/80, the cabin was used 87 nights from November through to May while in 1989/90 the cabin was used in excess of 1,320 nights from December through April. However, this figure represents less than 20% of the expressed demand as determined by the write-in lottery draw. In addition this popularity is due almost solely to word of mouth advertising as little has been spent to publicize this opportunity. Obviously this is an area where growth is possible.

2. Demand/Supply Analysis

Kokanee Glacier Park offers people an alpine environment that is more accessible and more easily enjoyed than most of the other large provincial parks in the southern interior of the province. In the immediate vicinity, both Valhalla Park

and the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy offer perhaps more striking mountain scenery but in both cases more limited road access and greater internal ruggedness attract a different clientele then Kokanee Glacier. The growing international reputation of Valhalla Park may indeed serve as a magnet drawing additional non-resident visitors to the general area and to complementary areas such as Kokanee Glacier Park. In winter, the park offers excellent backcountry skiing opportunities and, while competing with other downhill, heli-skiing, and cat-skiing opportunities in the region, it has no nearby rival in terms of relative ease of cross-country travel in an alpine environment at a comparable cost.

This park offers the most developed environment for backcountry recreation in the West Kootenays. As tourism generally in British Columbia expands, this park will attract a greater proportion of non-local visitors. Its close proximity to Nelson, relatively good road access and well maintained trail network are major assets in this regard. Kokanee Glacier is expected to continue to be relatively popular area, particularly for the regional population, and a steady increase in demand and use levels is anticipated in the next 3 to 5 years. The rate of increase could be significantly influenced by a major promotion effort combined with capital development of more trails, campsites, and other facilities as increased use pressures warrant.

Winter use is limited by available cabin space and demand presently exceeds supply by a factor of 5 to 1. Use is regulated by a write-in lottery draw in the fall well before the winter use season commences. In 1989/90 applications were received from as far away as California and Saskatchewan with only about 25% being from the local area. The appeal of the park is obviously very high but to meet this demand, capital expenditures in the form of additional cabin space are required.

G. PLANNING ISSUES

Through the years a loosely defined wilderness or backcountry concept has formed the basis for development and management of the park. The lack of a

comprehensive long range plan poses major limitations in dealing with the variety of complex issues facing park managers in the park today.

The park master plan, through statement of park purpose and objectives, is intended to tie in the long and well established use patterns that have evolved over 60 years with perspectives of the changing circumstances of the present and future. In this context, the master plan will address 5 major issues:

1. **Mineral Development Interests**

Much of the controversy over this issue which arose from policy directions outlined in the initial draft of the master plan was defused on March 21st, 1989, when the Class B portions of the park were upgraded to Class A status. Mineral evaluations conducted in 1987 and 1988 revealed small areas of high mineral potential inside the park, however, these conflict with areas of high recreation and conservation values. The conflict with park values along with the strong public outcry against mineral development in the park led to the decision to reclassify the park to Class "A" status.

Designation to Class A park status required that no further mineral activity would be permitted in the park. Policy considerations relating to rights of existing mineral tenure holders in the park fall outside the purview of this master plan and will be dealt with separately by the Ministry of Parks in co-ordination with the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Government has accepted that the mineral potential of any proposed park should be thoroughly evaluated before making long-term park designation decisions. In this context, the recreation area additions to the park are considered as proposed park areas requiring mineral potential assessment before any further decisions are made to proceed to Class A designation. The Mineral Tenure Act, passed in 1988, allows for time limited exploration within recreation areas. The master plan defines in a general basis how policies for time limited mineral evaluation will be applied in the recreation area additions to the park.

2. Backcountry Recreation

Changing trends in backcountry recreation throughout North America are forcing park agencies to consider new concepts in access and recreation. Helicopter access for winter use, hiking, fishing and viewing is becoming increasingly popular as is "wilderness adventure tourism" based on commercial trip packages offering varieties of activities, services and facilities.

BC Parks has received a number of queries from individuals and companies interested in establishing commercial recreation opportunities in Kokanee Glacier Park. From an analysis of the provincial park system in the Kootenays, Kokanee Glacier appears to be one of the better suited parks for commercial recreation use. The park tends to attract a very much different type of backcountry user than do the more pristine wilderness parks such as the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. Visitors come to the park for the scenery and recreation attractions but also for the relatively easy access to park features, the safe trails, the convenience of cabins and designated campsites, and the security provided by park staff. In this context, the provision of public recreation opportunities by the private sector may be compatible with the expectations of the average park user. However, there is no question that this subject has potential to generate considerable controversy on a philosophical basis. The master planning process will take into account public feedback on this issue in deciding which commercial activities are in keeping with the objectives of the park and the aspirations of park users.

3. Carrying Capacities

Kokanee Glacier is generally recognized as being one of the more intensively used backcountry parks in the Kootenays. There is the general perception that visitors tend to be tolerant of relatively high levels of use in the primary use areas of the park. With hardening of campsites, construction of durable trails and provision of proper sanitary facilities, the park could absorb much higher use than present

levels with negligible environmental impact. While there are few physical limitations on use, there is a threshold level of visitation where the quality of the park experience begins to suffer from a sense of overcrowding and loss of the wilderness atmosphere. Park planners and managers will require a sensitive appreciation of visitor needs and attitudes in determining appropriate development levels and standards as well as the controls and regulations that will have to be imposed on visitor activities to protect the park environment and to ensure a quality experience for park visitors as a whole.

4. The Slocan Chief Cabin

The Heritage Conservation Branch has determined that the Slocan Chief Cabin is significant as one of the few remaining structures of the 1890's West Kootenay alpine mining era. Many local outdoors people who contributed time and labour to maintain the cabin for recreation have special emotional attachment and interest in ensuring its continued existence. While these are strong reasons to maintain the cabin, engineering assessments have determined that the building is nearing its structurally safe lifespan. The Ministry cannot continue to justify the costs of piecemeal replacement of the rotten timber members or the use of support cables to prop up the walls, and must make a decision on the future of the cabin. Options include:

a. **Reconstruction** — Maintain present outside appearance; provide functional and cost efficient interior for continued use as a public accommodation facility. Continue to also use the Cabin as an interpretive focus for the park with interpretive displays on the interior walls.

b. **Preservation** — Stabilize building to arrest or reduce rate of deterioration; no overnight use because of maintenance costs and safety concerns; manage as a historic structure with interior interpretive displays. Accommodation would be provided in a new efficient building in the same general area.

c. **Natural Deterioration** — Permit building to stand unmaintained until time and elements bring about its collapse. The cabin would be interpreted with outside displays. The cabin site will be closed to public entry for safety reasons. Accommodation would be provided in a new building in the same general area.

d. **Removal** — The Slocan Chief Cabin would be removed and replaced by a new efficient building. On-site interpretive displays would tell the story of the old cabin.

5. Grizzly Bear Management

The park contains important bear habitats, some of which coincide with public use areas. A major challenge for the master plan will be the balancing of public recreation interests and safety with the need to protect grizzly bears. Development plans and public use will have to be compromised to minimize conflicts with bears. A bear study conducted in the park in 1985 will provide the basis for bear management decisions in the park.

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MAPS

Biogeoclimatic Subzones of the Nelson Forest District, Map 82F.

Geological Survey of Canada, Map 603a, Nelson — East Half.

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park and Recreation Area

MASTER PLAN

Appendix B: Public Involvement Process

BC Parks

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA

APPENDIX B

Public Involvement Process

1986 A user survey was administered at park trail heads during the summer. 154 survey questionnaires were collected.

1987 May — Meetings with key interest groups in West Kootenays and Vancouver. 13 letters or briefs received from organized groups and agencies.

1987 May 29 and 30 — Open house meetings in Nelson, 90 people attended.

1987 June 2 — Open house meeting in Vancouver — 20 people attended. 120 completed questionnaires were received from public open house process.

1987 December 11 — Copy of draft plan was sent to participants for review and comment.

Groups which Contributed to the Plan

- Outdoor Recreation Council
- Confederation of Canadian Unions — B.C. Council
- Corporation of the City of Nelson
- B.C. Mountaineering Club
- Valhalla Society
- West Kootenay Naturalists
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
- Kootenay Mountaineering Club
- Spokane Mountaineers
- Alpine Club of Canada
- Pro Terra
- East Kootenay Chamber of Mines

Many of the individuals involved in the plan showed great interest and dedication to the park. Special recognition is extended to the late Helen Butling, John Carter, Stan Baker, Leo Gansner, Fred Thiessen, Craig Pettitt and John Murray.

A number of the claim holders in the park and recreation area made representation of their concerns and interests at the open house meetings and in writing.

Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park and Recreation Area

MASTER PLAN

Appendix C: Mineral Policy for Kokanee Glacier Park and Recreation Area

BC Parks

KOKANEE GLACIER PARK AND RECREATION AREA

APPENDIX C

Policy Regarding Mineral Exploration and Development in Provincial Parks and Recreation Areas

1. PARKS

No mining, exploration, prospecting or staking of claims is permitted in Class "A" Provincial Parks.

2. RECREATION AREAS

Mineral claims may be staked and recorded in recreation areas designated under the Mineral Tenure Act. Exploration work on claims in a recreation area may be undertaken in accordance with terms and conditions jointly set by the Regional Director of Parks and Chief Inspector of Mines and contained in the **Reclamation Permit** required under the Mines Act. A security bond forms part of this permit, and it will only be released when the claim holder meets all the terms of the permit to the mutual satisfaction of the Chief Inspector of Mines and the Regional Director of Parks.

Mineral claims in good standing that pre-date the designation of the recreation area under the Mineral Tenure Act are not subject to the time limitations of tenure contained in Section 19 of the act, but may be explored in accordance with the conditions outlined above. Mineral claims recorded after the designation of the recreation area under the Mineral Tenure Act are subject to expropriation without compensation for costs to acquire, explore or develop the claims. This action cannot be taken, however, until ten years after the later of the following events:

a. the first publication of a notice in the British Columbia Gazette that a mineral potential evaluation report of the recreation area is available; or,

b. the first publication in the British Columbia Gazette of a notice addressed to free miners having, at the time of publication, resource use permits within that

recreation area stating that the recreation area is to become a park or part of a park.

Should a viable mineral deposit be identified in a recreation area during the ten year evaluation period, the evaluation period could be extended, or the designation of the recreation area could be reassessed.

Any proposal to bring a mineral deposit into production would be subject to a full review under the terms of the Mine Development Review Process.